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WEEKLY

\$300,000 TRANSFER TO FC BRUGGE

OKON GONE



BY
TOM ANDERSON

MARCONI and Young Socceroo skipper Paul Okon has been transferred to FC Brugge for an Australian record fee of \$300,000.

The deal was clinched at the weekend at the Marconi club when Brugge officials agreed on the transfer fee.

Okon 19, has signed a lucrative three year contract with the Belgian club and will head overseas to start pre-season training in two weeks time.

"I'm glad it's all over and I'm looking forward to starting a new career in Europe," Okon said.

"I'd like to thank the Marconi club for allowing me to go and being so good and professional about the deal."

Marconi club president Tony Labbozzetta said he was sad to lose such a fine young player, but fully realised his future lay in the pro ranks in Europe.

What ABSW says . . .

THE top priority for the powers that be in Australian soccer must now be to get our senior Socceroo show properly on the road.

Concrete plans, preparation and funding have to be implemented immediately, to insure the Socceroos have more than an even chance of qualifying for the World Cup finals in the USA in 1994.

For this is the real big one. The one, when the chips are down, that really matters in soccer.

The rest is secondary.

And to be perfectly blunt and honest, if we fail to make the 1994 finals, we will still have the 'Banana Republic' tag in the eyes

of the world, as far as top line soccer is concerned.

And, this is taking nothing away from the brilliant performance of our Young Socceroos in the recent World Youth Championships in Portugal.

Their wonderful endeavors now take a proud place in the sporting history of this country.

Our under-17 team — the Joeys, are also set to emulate the youth team, when they play in their finals in Italy in August, and the Olympic squad has a more than even chance of making the Games in Barcelona next year.

'SOCEROO MUST'

Then of course, Australia will host the World Youth finals in 1993.

But before attention is paid to those sorties, our senior Socceroo setup must be addressed and put into order.

Failing this, soccer in this country will continue to be akin to a dog chasing its tail.

It will eventually end in ever decreasing circles and then vanish into oblivion.

What must be realised by the ASF once and for all, is that the senior Socceroos are our flagship and must take first preference above all else.

THE EDITOR

West Adelaide coaching saga

Former Australian coach Rale Basic was rejected for the coaching job at reinstated National Soccer League club West Adelaide because he was too expensive.

West has appointed Argentinian-born Victor Fernandez, 52, as full-time coach for the 1991-92 season.

Club marketing and promotions manager Peter Angelos said Basic had been one of the contenders for the position but the West committee could not afford him.

"The biggest thing with some of these guys is they put a price tag on their head," Angelos said.

"Basic was one of those guys and it was not just that he was going to be expensive to sign, but because he also planned to spend big money on players."

West, which will be back in the NSL after a one-season absence, is fighting to improve its financial situation in an effort to be a long-term force in the national competition.

Angelos said Fernandez will bring tremendous experience to West.

Fernandez arrived in Australia in 1963 to play for St George, where he remained for seven seasons.

Newly promoted Quit National Soccer League club West Adelaide has appointed Canberra-based Victor Fernandez as its coach for the summer season.

The news, announced last week (Wed), took the soccer community by surprise as former Socceroo team boss Rale Basic was favoured for the West's post, while Fernandez has been overseas negotiating to coach a Hong Kong club.

Fernandez said a proposal he take over a Hong Kong national league side has foundered because the owners could not settle on the club's financial structure. "They still wanted me, and I did go to see them play in Malaysia, but I could not wait around for ever," he said.

"The approach from West Adelaide came out of the blue. They rang me on the Saturday afternoon, and a representative of the club flew to see me the next day."

Argentine-born Fernandez left Canberra on Friday to take a first look at his new club, currently playing in the South Australian League.

"The first task is to find out what players they have and what they will need for the new season," he said. "It is possible I will go the

South America to negotiate for some imports."

The one-year contract means he will be closing the car-repair business he runs with his son, Victor junior, who will be trying out for Sydney-based Melita Eagles in the QNSL.

"It is a big step and a big challenge, but after some time out of club coaching at the top level I feel I am ready for it," he said.

Fernandez, 52, is one of the most experienced team bosses in Australia, having the enviable reputation of never being sacked from a job. He arrived in this country 28 years ago to play for St George, and had a three-year stint in New Zealand before returning to the Saints as player-coach.

He moved to the newly-formed Canberra City in 1977 first as assistant to Johnny Warren, then taking over after Warren left. He coached for two seasons in Hong Kong and had a couple of spells in charge of Inter Monaro, the first of which saw the Queanbeyan team win the NSW League championship. His most recent club appointment was with Olympic in the ACT League.

He also is an Australian Soccer Federation staff coach who can be called on to help national team boss Eddie Thomson and assistant Les Scheinflug should the situation arise.

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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WEEKLY

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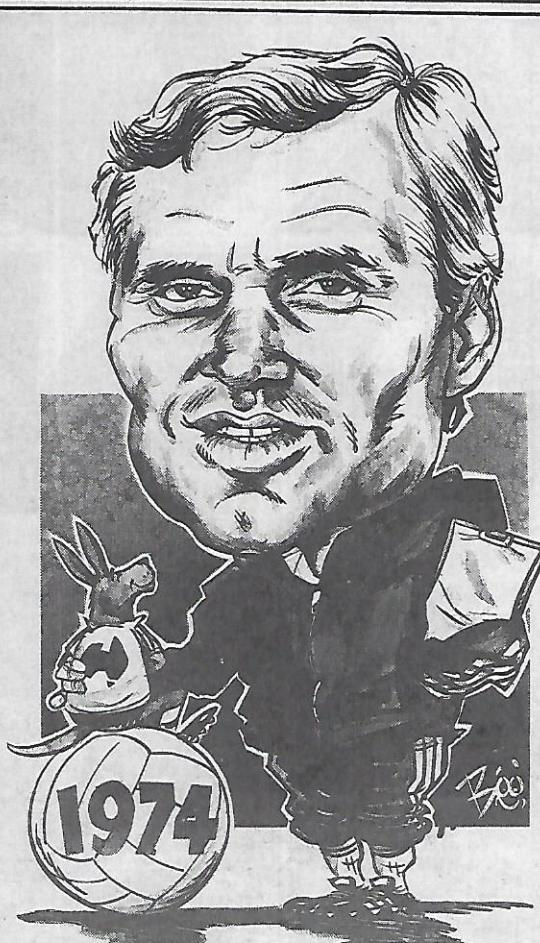
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Ace coach Rale Basic who missed out because he is a man of ideals and whose talents do not come on the cheap.

Kiwis for Queensland

Seven current or past internationals are in the Auckland Football Association touring side to play Queensland at Perry Park in Brisbane on July 29.

Apart from the internationals, four internationally experienced youth players are in the squad.

The squad is: Jason Batty, Goalkeeper, NZ under-16 and under-23; Warwick Hamlin, Goalkeeper, Auckland

U19; Kane Lynch, Defender, Youth International; Michael Ridenton, Midfield, Full International '89/91; Rodger Gray, Defender, All White '89 & '91; Steve Cain, Midfield; Kim Wright, Midfield, NZ All Whites; Carl Jorgensen, Midfield, NZ All Whites; Mark Elrick, Midfield/Striker, NZ Under-21; Sean Rowland, Defender, Youth All White; Michael Legg, Midfield, Auckland Rep in Japan; Neil Woodhams, Defender, Rep. Auckland; Steve

Nickson, Striker; Grant Lightbrown, Striker, NZ All White; Darren McClellan, Striker/Midfield, Youth Inter. All White; Noel Barkley, Striker/Midfield, All White.

Coach: Douglas Moore.

KEEP GOING FOR MORE BIG EURO SOCCER NEWS

Paul Okon — a star is born!

BY TOM ANDERSON

PAUL OKON was born to be a champion soccer player and his \$300,000 transfer to FC Brugge was inevitable.

And it is only the first step in what promises to be a long and distinguished professional career, likely to end up in Italy in the not too distant future.

AC Milan has already stated they intend to watch the young star's progress at Brugge with more than a keen interest.

And, Okon has made no secret that he has moulded his future along the same lines as Frank Farina.

Farina, of course, joined Brugge from Marconi and has now joined Italian first division club Bari in a deal estimated around \$5 million.

Okon, 19, is a kid who was steeped in soccer ever since he was knee high to a grasshopper.

His father Klaus played with Marconi, Granville and Avala and soccer in the Okon household is more a religion than a sport.

His elder brother Klaus 21, is also a fine player with Apia.

Paul started his soccer career at the tender age of 4, when he turned out for Fairfield Heights in the junior competition.

When he became 10, he joined Marconi juniors where he gained representative honours for NSW in the under-13, 14 and 18 ranks.

He then went on to play for the senior NSW side, to captain the Australian Youth team and also to play

for the Olympic and senior national teams.

He was educated at Fairfield Patrician Brothers school, but soccer took first preference over an academic career!

Indeed, he left school midway through the 11th grade to become Marconi's first full-time apprentice.

Apart from his wonderful God-gifted skills, Okon has a perfect attitude towards his chosen profession.

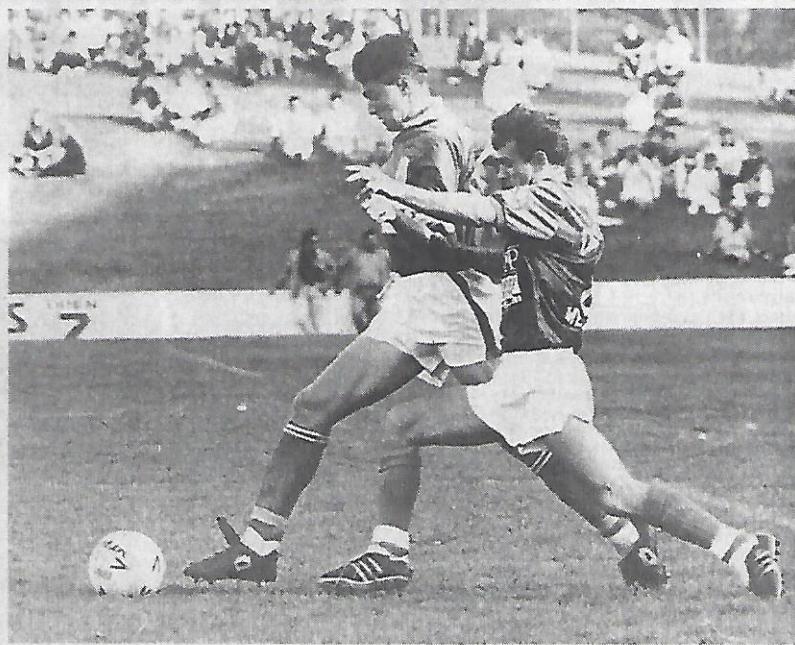
And, it is this attitude that has been instrumental in his success.

Here's a kid with an unquenchable thirst for soccer knowledge.

He's a good listener and a good learner and has the ability to know when to talk at the right time!

I remember when I went to Czechoslovakia with the Marconi team on tour a few years back, watching Paul seek out and find training sessions of various Czech teams.

He watched the Czechs prepare with great interest and no doubt picked up many fine tips during that



Paul Okon in action for Marconi in the NSL

"Frank did it and I aim to do the same."

Okon will have two weeks' rest here in Sydney with his family before joining Brugge in a pre-season training camp in France.

But his 'rest' will be interrupted by daily training sessions at Marconi!

"Sure, the World Youth Championships in Portugal were tiring, but I've fully recovered

and can't get back into harness quick enough," he said.

"I intend to be in good shape when I reach Europe and this is why I'm back in training."

Throughout his career here in Australia, I have never heard a bad word spoken against Paul Okon.

Here's a kid who's the epitome of all that's good in Australian

sport.

No doubt over the next few months in Europe, young Paul will, at times, become a little homesick for his beloved Australia.

But like others who have gone before him and succeeded, he will not allow this to upset his career.

"When I get homesick, I'll get on the phone to my family and I've got it all worked

out."

One thing in his favour is, he knows all about life and conditions in Belgium.

A number of years ago, he spent a month with the Anderlecht club in Brussels.

On behalf of all Australian sportsfans, we wish him well in his new professional career.

For if ever a player deserved to make it to the top, it's Paul Okon.

Blagojevic is wanted!

BY TOM ANDERSON

MARCONI want Apia's Socceroo defender Milan Blagojevic as a replacement for Paul Okon who has been transferred to FC Brugge.

Talks have already started to take Blagojevic to the Fairfield club.

The player has also informed Apia that he wants to leave.

Under a clause in his contract with Apia the maximum transfer fee that can be asked is \$18,000.

This is a giveaway price for such a quality player, but there is nothing Apia can do about it, having agreed on the condition when he signed.

However, there are another two clubs interested in the future of Blagojevic.

He was also set to go to Italy to trial with Fiorentina, but this has been shelved because of his transfer request.

Another Apia star, Alex Bundalo, has asked for a transfer.

Bundalo tabled his request last week.

Two clubs — Sydney Olympic and Wollongong City — are interested in him.

Meanwhile, the very talented star Ned Zelic wants to quit Sydney Croatia and is angry at the \$150,000 transfer fee placed on his head.

"The thing that annoys me most is that Croatia did not pay a cent for me in the first place and has done nothing to develop me as a player," he said.

Zelic will appeal against the fee.

Marconi are also keeping a close watch on the situation.



Star performer Milan Blagojevic

Bosnich trouble

BY TOM ANDERSON

BRILLIANT Young Socceroo goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has landed in terrible trouble on his return to England from the World Youth Championships in Portugal.

Bosnich 19, who plays with Manchester United, was voted the best goalkeeper in the series and the best in the world at his age.

However, when he arrived at Manchester airport, the British immigration officials confiscated his passport and informed him that he did not have a work permit to play in England.

Because of the critical situation, the youngster's future with United is now very much up in the air.

To worsen the situation, United boss Alex Ferguson is at present on holiday in the USA.

This has left Mark holed up in his apartment in Manchester, fearful of his future.

The immigration officials informed him they will contact him later this week.

Mark is hoping that he will not be deported!

Watching the situation closely is leading European agent Israel Moaz, at present in Australia to finalise the Paul Okon deal from Marconi to FC Brugge.

If the worst happens, and Bosnich is deported from England, Moaz is ready to step in with an offer for Mark to join a leading European club.

However, United officials have already stated they are not prepared to lose the world's finest young goalkeeper without one big fight!

The position is expected to be clarified in the next few days.

ULTIMATE

The inventor of the penalty

THE roots of historical events have a knack of being obliterated as the years go by, perhaps because the inventor and his contemporaries were not fully aware of the impact their creation would have over the years.

Sometimes, through a stroke of luck, somebody comes up with a missing link to complete the chain of events. In 1932 an obituary appeared in a Northern Ireland paper in Milford, County Armagh, reflecting on the life of a highly respected local citizen and businessman.

In it, a certain William McCrum was lauded as a brilliant scholar, story teller and outstanding sportsman. Nothing unusual about that — if it had not contained the reference to the fact that the deceased had been the inspiration behind one of the most momentous changes to the Laws of the Game. It was William McCrum who, in 1890, submitted a proposal for "a penalty kick" to the Irish Football Association Board which incorporated it in the Laws of the Game.

THE obituary on McCrum paints a picture of a person who was a gentleman from head to toe and who was obviously tired of seeing footballers resorting to all kinds of methods to inflict their will or to methods who were not expressly prohibited.

The trend became a thorn in the flesh for McCrum as the years went by.

In football, only the ball was intended to be kicked, not the ideal. Anyone who refused to respect this deserved to be threatened with a deterrent which would punish not only the offender but his whole team as well.

William McCrum was not a daydreaming zealot and advocate of old-fashioned ideals.

He was goalkeeper for Milford Everton, a small club that played in the Irish Championship's

first season in 1890-91. The team ended up thoroughly defeated at the bottom of the list with no points and a goal average of 10-62 but this did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the club, which was thereupon demoted to anonymity in a Belfast District League.

The club still exists today.

Football was not the only sport which McCrum passionately followed.

His position as partner in the linen factory, McCrum, Watson and Mervier assured him a financially secure life and afforded him enough time to join cricket clubs and other clubs and make a name for himself as a sportsman with a feeling for fairness and respect for the rules.

McCrum also held an influential position in the Irish Football Association.

As goalkeeper, he had felt firsthand the effects of breaches of the rules and similar unsporting



William McCrum (middle row, second from left) with his friends at the Milford Football Club. A village club and one of the oldest in Ireland, it took part in the first Irish Championship in 1890-91 and is still going strong today.

William McCrum, the "inventor" of the penalty, came from a highly respectable family. His father, High Sheriff for County Armagh, sent him to the Armagh Royal School. From there he went on to Trinity College in Dublin, where he proved to be a brilliant and well-read scholar.

McCrum, who also became a Justice of the Peace, was member of many committees, organisations and clubs such as the Milford Football Club, of which he was the Chairman, the Irish Football Association, the Armagh Rugby Football Club

and the Milford and Armagh Cricket Clubs. In 1897, he presented the Mid-Ulster Association clubs with a challenge cup for a competition that still runs today. The first time the competition was held, it was his own club that won the trophy.

As one of the managing directors of the linen manufacturers, McCrum, Watson and Mervier, he represented the company's interests in London for a number of years. He spent the best part of his life, however, in Milford, where he had grown up and where he died in 1932 after a long illness.

behaviour on the field.

He had, as a result of his position in the Association, a flair for administration and politics, without which his revolutionary idea would hardly have been implemented.

It took another man to realise the penalty as we know it today. Jack Reid, the centre forward for Cliftonville Club, recognised how ingenious McCrum's suggestion

was.

With six Irish caps earned between 1883 and 1890, Reid could be described as McCrum's "twin", also enjoying a high position in the Association.

As General Secretary of the Irish Football Association he attended the annual meetings of the International Football Association Board, which was founded in 1886 to supervise the Laws of the Game and their implementation in the British Isles, becoming in time the "guardians of the grail" of the Laws of the Game.

It was 1890. The Irish FA Committee decided to submit the proposal which Reid had passed on from McCrum to the International Board for discussion and incorporation into the Laws of the Game.

But it seems that the other Board members were not in the mood for momentous amendments to the Laws on June 2, 1890 or else the minutes secretary limited himself to noting only the essential points.

Whereas in previous years the pages had been full up to the last line, the debates held in 1890 filled only half a page.

It was duly noted that the Irish Association had withdrawn its proposal and the Board had decided

to discuss the issue of introducing the penalty kick the following year.

The proposal created a storm of protest in the press and the football establishment was shaken to the core.

Opponents of the innovative idea poured scorn over McCrum describing his suggestion as "the Irishman's motion".

For the English, who were convinced that only gentlemen pursued the fledgling sport of football, the mere thought of such a sanction was sacrilegious.

A gentleman would never deliberately kick an opponent.

Introducing the penalty, which the press sensationalised as the "death sentence", was indirectly admitting that the teams and players often resorted to ungentlemanlike methods.

On the pitch, however, the Laws were violated with such increasing frequency that they cried out for a penalty.

The growing popularity of the FA Challenge Cup led to matches being contested with increasing zeal and not only teams were left lying by the roadside but fair play as well.

So it was no surprise when an incident that occurred during the quarter final match between

Notts County and Stoke City turned the tide of sentiments.

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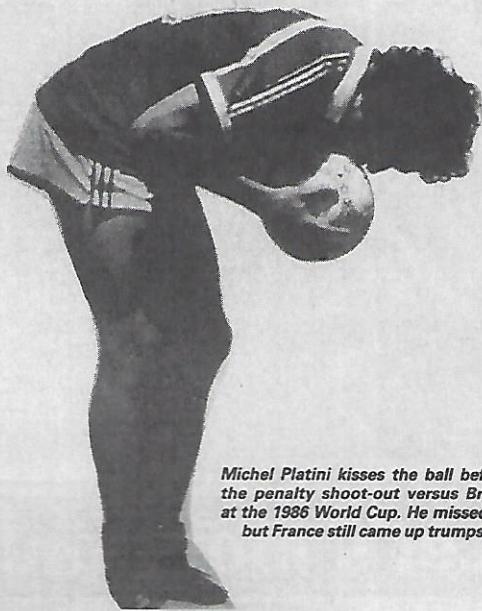
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IRISH JOKE!

He was an Irish goalkeeper



Michel Platini kisses the ball before the penalty shoot-out versus Brazil at the 1986 World Cup. He missed — but France still came up trumps.

feree and linesmen, the basis of which still holds good today.

Their duties and obligations were mentioned in one Article.

In the minutes recorded by the Welshman, Taylor, there is no mention of when the meeting ended with the exchange of thanks (in 1890 the minutes would have it that the members parted without much formality).

One fact is, however, undisputed. June 2, 1891 was, in every way, a red-letter day for the International FA Board and for football.

It was, for William McCrum, vindication of his ideals and the "Irish motion". On the pitch, he was not destined for the high spots but as the inventor of the penalty, he could claim much of the credit for the worldwide attraction of football for himself.

When the Irishman Reid managed to convince the other members of the International FA Board in 1891 of the necessity of the penalty, the new rule at that time took up a couple of lines.

One hundred years later,

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then incorporated into the general Laws of the Game, reveals some enlightening facts:

— In 1891 only three violations were considered to merit a penalty, namely tripping or holding an opponent and deliberate handling of the ball.

Even in those days, the custodians of the Laws made no difference between physically slighter infringements (handling the ball) and more serious violations (tripping) but attempted to punish the serious lack of sportsmanship implicit in these infringements of the game. In time, other violations were incorporated which, if committed

In 1937 the arc followed what describes a radius of ten yards from the penalty spot and shows the distance which players have to keep when a

"If any player shall deliberately trip or hold an opposing player or deliberately handle the ball within twelve yards from his own goal-line, the Referee shall, on appeal, award the opposing side a penalty kick, to be taken from any point twelve yards from the goal-line under the following conditions: — All players, with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick and the opposing goalkeeper (who shall not advance more than six yards from the goal-line) shall stand at least six yards behind the ball. The ball shall be in play when the kick is taken, and a goal may be scored from the penalty kick".

Closer examination of the new rule, which was

outside the penalty area, incurred a direct free kick and, inside the penalty box, a penalty kick.

— The penalty demarcation line extended cross the whole breadth of the field at a distance of twelve yards away from the goal-line.

— The referees, who were bestowed with full authority in 1891 by the connoisseurs of the Laws, did not react according to their discretion on but on appeal by the teams, a privilege that the players, with their perpetual protests, were soon divested of.

— The penalty kick could be taken from any point along the twelve yard line.

— The goalkeeper was permitted to move up to six yards away from his goal-line to defend a penalty while all the other players had to wait at least six yards behind the ball.

— It was the first time that a goal could be scored directly from a (special) free kick.

As from 1901, the field markings as used today first began to apply regularly: 18 yards (16 metres) away from each goalpost a mark was made on the field to enable the referee to implement the penalty rule.

In 1902, the goal area and penalty area were introduced with the shape and measurements applied today. At the same time the Board stipulated that a mark was to be indicated on the pitch twelve yards away from the goal.

In 1937 the arc followed what describes a radius of ten yards from the penalty spot and shows the distance which players have to keep when a



The International Football Ass't Board met in the Alexandra Hotel, Bath St, Glasgow on Tuesday the 2nd June 1901 at 6pm.

Mr G. Snedden (President of the Scottish Football Ass't) was called to the chair. The following delegates were present viz: Messrs C. Brumf. & H. Gregson (England) J. Taylor (Wales) J. Reid (Ireland) J. A. Belmont & Charnasfield. Before proceeding with the business, it was decided not to admit the Welsh.

It was reported that the ultimate book had not been forwarded from England & Mr Gregson took in hand to see that the book was sealed.

Mr Reid (Ireland) proposed Mr Brumf. (England) seconded, the following which had been recommended from the last Board meeting and which was also proposed by the Football Ass't viz

If any player shall intentionally trip or hold an opposing player, or deliberately handle the ball within twelve yards from his own goal-line, the Referee shall, on appeal, award the opposing side a penalty kick, to be taken from any point twelve yards from the goal-line under the following conditions: — All players, with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick and the opposing goalkeeper, shall stand behind the ball and at least six yards from the ball. The ball shall be in play when the kick is taken. A goal may be scored from the penalty kick.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the following alterations viz: After the

penalty kick is being taken.

It was made clear from the start that the space between the arc and the penalty area line was not considered as part of the penalty area.

The idea of an arc did not come from the Board but from a few European

Associations which had already introduced such markings, but the Board soon recognised the usefulness of the arc in determining the players' distance and approved the practice soon after.

The man who saw his freedom increasingly restricted was the goalkeeper.

Originally he had been allowed to move up to six yards away from the goal-line. Some of the members of the goalkeepers' guild made use of this right, but with slight deviations from the original intention.

They quite simply and suavely stood next to the goal because they felt the penalty was an insult to the spirit of sportsmanship.

Some of the players chosen to take the penalty seemed to share this sentiment and deliberately aimed the shot past the post.

In order to stop these habits, the Board stipulated in 1905 that from now on the goalkeeper had to stand on the goal-line between the goalposts but still allowing him to move or even to run from side to side.

In 1929, the goalkee-

per was ordered once and for all to stand between the posts without moving his feet.

It seems that the goalies had until then still found ways of showing their disapproval of the penalty decision.

Before the II World War, Stanley Rous, the Secretary of The Football Association at that time and later FIFA President, was responsible for renumbering the Laws.

The penalty, which in the meantime had become Law 17, was renumbered Law 14 and still has this position in the Laws of the Game today.

After the war, the International Board completed the rules with a number of decisions paving the way mainly for possible measures to be taken by the referee.

In 1972 these decisions were completely reworded.

Law no. 7 (Duration of play) was also affected by the introduction of the penalty.

The decision that a penalty kick could be completed even after normal playing time had already been agreed upon by the Board in 1893.



"Referee, a penalty!" Italy's Schillaci and Baggio forcefully demand a spot kick.

Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat

No time for a rest!

NATIONAL Youth coaches Les Scheinflug and Raul Blanco had little opportunity to rest on their laurels when they returned last week with the highly successful Australian Under 20 side from the World Youth championships.

Australia finished officially fourth in Portugal after losing the third place playoff to the Soviet Union on penalty kicks although both teams were presented with third place medals.

The two coaches will almost immediately resume control of the Australian Under 17 team which has qualified for the World finals in Italy next month.

"I would have liked some time off to recover from the matches in Holland and Portugal and just to clear my thinking," said Scheinflug.

"But there isn't sufficient time to spare because we must get the Under 17 team into action so that they won't be under-prepared when they arrive in Italy."

"At least we'll get some training in Holland and hopefully some matches in Europe to bring them into match condition."

Scheinflug said the team was still receiving congratulations on its performance in the tournament in which it shocked the better-rated countries with a series of wins.

The skills displayed by the Young Socceroos, a product of the Scheinflug-Blanco combination, have catapulted Australia out



LES SCHEINFLUG

of the developing country status.

Australia has long been classified by the world body FIFA as a country which needs assistance to aspire to the higher standards of teams from Europe and South America.

"If the next team has the same spirit as this side, they will make us proud," said Australian Youth captain Paul Okon.

"No one expected us to get further than the quarter finals."

"This team came within an inch of being world champion and I hope the public can be shown how close the Young Socceroos came to a gold medal."

"In two weeks, we have come from being just a little known team to a well known team and everyone wants to be part of it."

"What intrigued people was that the Australians never gave up and at the final whistle were still trying."

Scheinflug said the pressure of the penalty shootout was immense on his young players and further international experience in this area was needed for national teams.

Australia can expect increased foreign tournament invitations following its outstanding performance in finishing fourth at the World Youth Soccer Championship in Portugal.

Okon, along with striker David Seal and midfielder Lorenz Kindner, were the only players to be selected in all of the 11 matches involving the Young Socceroos.

Scheinflug said the biggest factor in Australia's improvement was the gradual acceptance by the Australians that they could match skills with the stars from overseas.

"We have been preaching to this team for the 12 months we had them under our control that they should believe in themselves. We've said it over and over," he said.

"Visiting coaches, FIFA, everyone could not credit Australia was capable of producing this standard of football."

"If we can have a similar experience for the Under 17 team it will be a great leadup to what they could achieve in two years when Australia is host to the 1993 World Youth championships."

"Australia is no longer the 'Down Under' country in world soccer."

"Everyone wants to invite us."

"Before the tournament everyone was talking about Europe or South America, now they're saying let's talk about Australia."

"Some of the boys are still overcome by the medal."

"It's like a dream to them, especially as we only had 12 months together not like the years spent by some other countries," said Scheinflug.

New Diego stars in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES:
Soccer-mad Argentina, shocked by the downfall of Maradona, is pinning much hope in another talented midfielder named Diego.

These days, when fans in the packed stands roar Ole for Diego, they are cheering the nimble-footed Diego Latorre.

Latorre, 21, is slightly taller and much slimmer than his namesake. His ball control, shooting and passing looks just as good but he is not as much of a scrapper when it comes to tackling.

Although both were obvious choices for Argentina's team, neither could join the national side on a three-match tour to the United States and England.

Maradona has been banned amid a drug scandal. Latorre was needed by his Boca Juniors club for the semi-finals of the South American Libertadores Cup.

With only two full caps, Latorre was sorry to miss the tour.

"What bothered me most is that I missed playing at Wembley. You don't get to play there very often," he said.

After four years as a professional, Latorre is the toast of Boca, Argentina's most popular club.

Italian agents, impressed by his ball control, signed him to play for Fiorentina next season.

Latorre met Maradona

na after the Napoli star returned from Italy in April. They talked about Italian soccer and Maradona forecast the younger Diego would have no problems making the grade.

Latorre said he was aware of the temptations lying ahead: "I am going to Italy to play soccer and I am going to stay clear from anything that is not akin to soccer," he said.

The two Diegos come from different backgrounds. Maradona's mastery landed him his first professional contract at 15 and helped him move his whole family from the suburban slum where he was born.

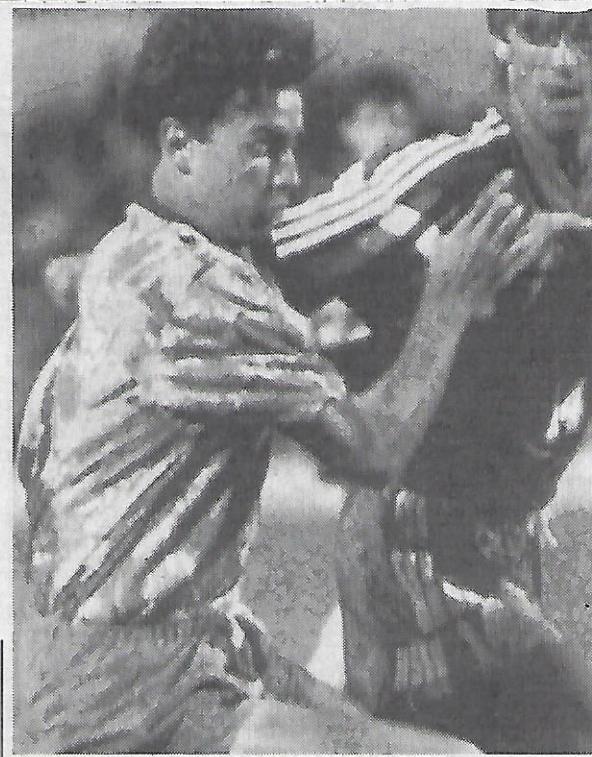
Latorre hails from a middle-class neighbourhood a few blocks away from the grounds of the Argentinos Juniors club, Maradona's first professional team.

While Maradona was with Barcelona, Latorre had not yet decided which of his favourite sports he would pursue — soccer or tennis.

Soccer came out top after a Boca talent scout saw him playing at his parents' weekend home when he was 14.

Unlike the rakish Maradona, who never finished high school, the self-effacing Latorre was a top-grades economics student until he turned professional in 1987.

Latorre had one ambition before joining Fiorentina. He wants to win an Argentine League championship playing for Boca — just like Maradona 10 years ago. And he did!



YOUNG SOCCEROO PAUL OKON

Let's move on!

BY LOU GAUTIER

AUSTRALIA'S magnificent performance in the Youth World Cup finals that made the world sit up and take notice must not be allowed to go to waste.

After all, the United States, another English-speaking soccer minnow, also shocked everyone by making it to the semi-finals of the 1989 FIFA Coca-Cola Cup in Saudi Arabia, but that had no impact on the local American game.

The same must not be allowed to happen here.

The Australian Soccer Federation, the whole of the Australia in fact, has in the Young Socceroos a very marketable product — a promoter's dream.

Unfortunately, several of the players who did us proud in Portugal won't be basking in the spotlight of their successes in Australia for long.

More than a few appear certain to be headed for European clubs in coming months after having impressed scouts from all over the world with the quality of their play in Portugal.

But that is the name of the game and you can't begrudge players, even those starting out in their careers, for wanting to better themselves both from the playing and financial aspects.

The Young Socceroos' displays in Portugal caught the imagination

of the entire country.

It is no exaggeration to say they have become national sporting heroes after beating giants like the Soviet Union and disposing of the conquerors of England and Uruguay, Syria.

To have reached the last four in one of the top competitions in the world's Number One sport has to rank amongst the very best performances of any Australian team in world team sports.

And when I say sports, I mean truly international sports, not those only played in a handful of countries like cricket, rugby or hockey.

The only other achievement that matches the Young Socceroos' semi-final appearance in the Youth World Cup is the semi-final appearance of both Australian teams — men's and women's — at the Seoul Olympics in that other universal sport, basketball.

Australia can consider itself lucky that by a stroke of good fortune the next Youth World Cup finals will be held in Australia.

The ASF must start planning to make the series in 1993 a huge success.

While Australia can't hope to match the huge crowds that watched the home team in Portugal, we certainly can do better than the measly attendances at most matches not involving Portugal.

The organisers should

build their campaign for the 1993 finals around the achievements of the 1991 Young Socceroos, even though Kevin Muscat is the only member of this year's squad still young enough to qualify for the 1993 event, for which Australia, of course, qualify automatically as host country.

And it will be crucial for the ASF to spare neither money nor time for youth coaches Les Scheinflug and Raul Blanco to start their identification campaigns for 1993 now.

No expense should be spared to prepare the 1993 Young Socceroos.

The two-week camp in Holland by the 1991 Young Roos paved the way for their successes in the finals.

The next Young Socceroos, who will be playing the tournament at home this time, must get even more pre-finals preparation if we are to repeat this year's Portuguese performance.

A good start to the 1993 campaign will be next month's under-17 World Cup finals in Italy.

Hopefully, this vintage of Joeys will produce the bulk of the 1993 Young Socceroos.

After the under-20s' glorious two weeks in Portugal, it will be the under-17 Joeys' turn to be in the spotlight next month.

And with Scheinflug and Blanco again at the helm in Italy, the cream of our soccer youth may again stun the world.

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Demons win in a shocker!



Geoff Gunning

BLACKTOWN CITY 2
ROCKDALE ILLINEN 0

SADLY for spectators at the Gabbie Stadium, a promising game failed to eventuate, Blacktown winning 2-0 after having plenty in their favour from the 9th minute.

The game was not allowed to flow thanks to some over-zealous refereeing and when goalie Kostadinovski was sent off in the 9th minute, Rockdale was always going to be up against it.

Stan Suman burst into the Rockdale half and just outside the area, the young keeper brought him down and received his marching orders.

Six minutes later Rockdale could have had a goal when Mike Gibson misjudged a corner and in the ensuing melee two shots had to be cleared

ball dipping at the last moment.

Berry picked up a consolation for Avala in the 87th when he pounced on a ball which was not cleared fully and Avala could have grabbed a last equalizer, so well did they finish the game.

Two penalty appeals, one on either side in each half and both for handball, went unheeded by the referee as the two sides claimed at the finish that they had been robbed.

ROCKDALE ILLINEN: Franken, Segreto (Petrovski 82), Lerond, Ralevski, Buchanan, Naumovski, Markovski, Petkovic, Wilson, Porter (Deveridge 75), Beddon.

AVALA: Pupovac, Benitez, Radovic, Vukmirovic, Ashton, Radosavljevic, Djiljak, El Ali, Bundalo, Fitzcharles, Berry. REFEREE: Nick Xanthos.

Rockdale shine

ROCKDALE ILLINEN 2
AVALA 1

SATURDAY'S deferred game between Rockdale and Avala provided fine entertainment for a good crowd at Hurstville Oval, Rockdale taking their chances and running out 2-1 winners on the day.

Avala had the better of the first half, but poor finishing let them down.

Peter Vukmirovic headed over an Alex Bundalo cross in the 12th and Bundalo was also involved in the 25th when his thumping shot was stopped by Kostadinovski and headed over the bar to safety by Ivan Petkovic.

Rockdale had one important chance wasted in the first half, a Richard

ball dipping at the last moment.

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Avala is shot shy

MANLY NS UTD 1
AVALA 1

AVALA continued where they had left off the previous day, dominating territorially and yet wasting endless chances as they could only manage a 1-1 draw with home side Manly North Shore United at Cromer Park.

Several pieces of slack defence allowed Avala in during the game and the locals were lucky not to be well behind before the break.

As it happened the teams were scoreless at half time, most shots coming at the Manly, end,

Buchanan run ending with a cross from Greg Lerond which went begging as no-one arrived in the middle in time.

Avala continued to squander chances, Stephen Berry intercepting a Mendo Ralevski back pass in the 50th minute, but hurry his shot and sending the ball over the bar.

By the middle of the second half Rockdale began to take command with Zlatko Markovski and Petkovic dominating proceedings.

Markovski collected a ball in the 68th and sent Lerond away, the cross from the speedy winger being nodded home at the near post by Stewart Porter.

In the 74th Markovski played a short ball with a team mate and hit the return pass cleverly over the 'keeper's head, the

ed his side with an edge of the penalty area save at the feet of the same player.

Berry missed two more good chances as Bundalo and Osvaldo El Ali helped themselves to the Lions' share of the ball throughout the match making it hard work for the Manly defence.

MANLY NORTH SHORE UNITED: Prentice, Cianfar, Doyle, Medanic, Maticic, McGregor, O'Carroll, Butler, Moss, White (Greenaway 87), Grimes (Farac 75).

AVALA: Pupovac, Vrakovic, Radovic, Vukmirovic, Radosavljevic, Berry, Kupresanin, Benitez, El Ali, Bundalo, Fitzcharles. REFEREE: Stewart Lockrey.

off the Blacktown line.

The lack-lustre first half gave way to a better second period for the Demons who got the lead in the 50th minute.

Damon Langon made a run on the right, crossed for Lawrie McKenna who was able to find an unmarked Geoff Gunning, whose header from seven metres found the mark.

Two minutes later Stan Suman headed against the bar when a Paul Bourke shot had

been palmed away by stand in keeper Burmowski.

The follow up shot by Gunning was accompanied by a handball, otherwise it could have been 2-0 very quickly.

As it was Suman had another goal disallowed in the 63rd and chipped an easy chance straight at the young goalie in the 75th, before Blacktown finally sealed what should have been an emphatic win in the 79th.

A quick clearance by

Goals plus

SOUTHERN DIST 3
SUTHERLAND SHIRE 3

ANOTHER fighting effort by the Southern Districts side which at one stage was two goals down, yet fought back to lead 3-2 before eventually drawing 3-3 with the league leaders, Sutherland.

Darryl Sharp made a swift left side break in the 6th minute and finished off his solo run neatly to put the Sharks one up early.

Grant Bard volleyed in the second in the 17th after a Shane Clinch cross from the left.

An unsighted Paul Dart in the Sutherland goal was angry with his defensive colleagues when Districts pulled a goal back in the 28th.

After a short corner Bruno Ciaramella had a tame shot which a defender allowed to pass well short of Dart and Darren Read nipped in smartly

ROUND 15 RESULTS

BHP AUSTRAL 3
(Naumov, Lowe, Tredinnick) POLO-
NIA 0.ROCKDALE
ILLINEN 2 (Markovski, Porter) AVA-
LA 1 (Berry).MANLY NTH
SHORE 1 (O'Carroll)
AVALA 1 (Berry).SOUTHERN DIS-
TRICTS 3 (Read 2,
Genovese) SUTHERLAND
SHIRE 3 (Sharp,
Bard, Clinch).BLACKTOWN
CITY 2 (Gunning,
McKenna) ROCK-
DALE ILLINEN 0.CANTERBURY/
M'VILLE 0 WAR-
RINGAH F/WATER 0.SYDNEY MACE-
DONIA 4 (Gilbert 2 (1
pen), Kadric 2) CAN-
BERRA METRO 0.

to put the ball over the line.

In the 42nd Tony Genovese brought the crowd to life with a 35 metre cracker which sailed into the net just under the crossbar.

Seven minutes into the second half Gurkan Tasdemir raced upfield and crossed smartly for Darren Read to left foot the ball into the net from 12 metres out, Paul Dart being unable to cut out the pass.

Sutherland managed to equalise themselves in the 71st when a long Dart clearance was nodded on by Grnat Bard and Shane Clinch beat Pezzano with a shot from just inside the box.

Sharks coach Bill Rigby was far from happy with his side, which is still looking for a win in the second round but holds its lead by virtue of early season invincible form, not by its current efforts.

SOUTHERN DI-
STRICTS: Pezzano,
Sendi, Ciaramella (Tapia),
Gregson, Moon Cheung,
Genovese, Card, Read,
Genc, Tasdemir, M. Pilie
(Sacco 71).

SUTHERLAND: Dart,
Edmunds, Ensor, M. O'S-
hea, Biscaya, R. O'Shea,
Brandtman (Lenev 65),
Clinch, Bard, Laris (Chris-
tostodoulou 46), Sharp.
REFEREE: Con Diomis.

Mike Gibson found Gunning, who crossed for Suman, before receiving the return ball on the right flank. Gunning was able to slip the ball into the path of McKinna, who put his shot away from 12 metres, celebrating his birthday a day early with a fine goal.

Darren Wilson was one Rockdale player who drew special praise from all sections of the crowd when he left the field towards the end, after colliding with an upright in making a goal-line clearance.

Earlier, Wilson had left the field with a badly gashed head, but returned to soldier on and even tried to stay on after the later incident in which some serious leg injury was sustained.

ROCKDALE ILLINEN:
Kostadinovski (sent off 9),
Segreto, Wilson, Ralevski,
Buchanan, Naumovski,
Markovski, Petkovic
(Mora 59), Wilson, Porter,
Deveridge (Burmuзовski
in 90).

REFEREE: Manny Loupis.

The Berries, who were confined to midfield tussle for long periods, rarely troubled the Warringah defence, Peter Katholos blasting wide in the 29th and substitute Louis Dounis tapping straight at George Bouthous in the 68th minute after getting a favourable bounce originally.

On the balance of play the visitors had a slight edge and another couple of points got away from this top side, it would seem.

Canterbury are still up there, but can't afford to drop too many more.

CANTERBURY-MAR-
RICKVILLE: Bouhouros,
Rezo, Radman, Yankos,
Kalogeros (Adamou 80),
Slavesci, Illic, Katholos,
Parlson, Oustambasidis
(Dounis 55).

WARRINGAH FRESH-
WATER: Gunning, Etherington,
Brown, Sterrey,
Pierce, Miranda, Masi
(Calicott 80), de Ceglie,
Vesi, McKie, Irarate.

REFEREE: Mark Williamson.

Austral hit hard

BHP AUSTRAL 3
POLONIA 0

IN cold and blustery conditions at Newcastle's Austral Park, the local BHP Austral side obtained a clear-cut 3-0 win at the expense of injury ravaged Polonia.

Missing Jarek Nowicki and losing Straszewski at half time, the outer Sydney side was never really in the hunt against a home team bent on destruction.

It was one way traffic in the first half and a rather lethargic Polonia were not travelling like winners, despite the proddings from the back by the second half.

Kwasniewski, who rarely troubled Craig Carter.

In the 33rd minute BHP went to the front, belatedly, as Bobby Naumov finished off a move which he had started with the overlapping right back Andrew Bard, Clinch.

Roberts was strange to the position at the start of the year, but has blossomed nicely and his good understanding with Naumov is now a regular feature.

Paul Hunter had a shot for Polonia which skimmed the upright and Kwasniewski had another smothered in a rare skirmish at the start of the second half.

From that point it was all Australs, the second goal coming in the 67th

when a Naumov corner was nudged over the line at the near post by David Lowe.

Three minutes later sloppy Polonia defence left Howard Tredinnick with a chance to slam home the third and as time ran out Naumov had a drive well saved and Boogaard hit the post for the home side.

BHP AUSTRAL: Carter,
Roberts, Jones (Elphick
75), Boogaard, Stewart,
Tredinnick, McWhirter,
Meredith, Lowe, Maier,
Naumov.

POLONIA: Berry, Cas-
sery, Kwasniewski, La-
sek, Hunter, C. Thom-
pson, Minol (Gatt 46), Ca-
lic, Straszewski (Richar-
dson 46), Colusso, Wyatt.

REFEREE: Robert Davies.

Fergie on target!



FORMER Glasgow Ranger's star Eric Ferguson's 77th minute goal was enough to increase Waverley's lead at the top of the Second Division to six points, following their 1-0 win over close rivals Dulwich Hill.

While Waverley were opening the gap at the top, the struggle for the semi finals intensified, Granville slumped to fourth after losing 4-3 to a revitalised Auburn and Mt Pritchard racked up the biggest win of the season, a 7-0 crushing of Port Hacking.

Mt Pritchard's demolition job on cellar dwellers Port Hacking was helped along by a marvellous Carlos Vanegas hat trick and a five goal onslaught in a 15 minute spell after the interval.

Vanegas opened his account after just five minutes, Andrew Juhart provided the second after 26 minutes, and on the stroke of halftime Vanegas gave the visitors, unbeaten in their last five outings, an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Further goals from Peter Willis, Trevor Daley, Juhart and Vanegas completed the rout, as Port recorded their third loss on the trot, and have conceded a massive 11 goals

in their last two outings without reply.

Following their tense 2-2 draw at home to Campbelltown mid-week, the league leaders for the third time in seven days had to face the music when they took on fourth placed Dulwich Hill.

Waverley were in command for almost the entire contest, the opening 15 minutes belonging to the visitors, during which Waverley custodian Les Behari once again displayed his class to deny Dulwich Hill.

As the visitors slipped back into their shell, content to play for a draw, Waverley, unbeaten in their last ten matches, took control.

Ferguson cracked home an unstoppable drive from 15 metres after a Robbie Jerkovic free kick was nodded into his path by Barry Walker, 13 minutes from time.

Petersham leapfrogged a point ahead of four chasing clubs into second spot, and picked up their third win on the trot after wearing down a courageous Campbelltown 2-1.

Both sides had plenty of opportunities in an entertaining first half, Martin Bourke threading his way through the defence to slot home Petersham's first after 19 minutes.

Hugo Giminez had perhaps Campbelltown's best chance in the first stanza but his effort cracked against the bar, while at the other end an Eddie Tomasic header was scrambled off the line by the visitors defence, six minutes prior to the interval.

Martin Bourke went close again a minute after the restart, his effort



ERIC FERGUSON

well saved by the Campbelltown keeper, as Petersham continued to dominate.

Against the run of play the visitors broke away and drew level, Peter Treacy beating a defender to tuck home the equaliser after 54 minutes.

The home side, with five wins from their last six starts, again took control, Darren Stephenson had a goal disallowed for an infringement in the 76th minute, and a minute later Tomasic blasted just over the top.

With eight minutes remaining Petersham were finally rewarded, Glen Jeffrey found space on the flank and provided a perfect cross for Stephenson to nod home the winner.

All seven goals and one send off during an explosive second half as Auburn revived their chances of qualifying for the play offs, after they downed the more fancied Granville 4-3 at Mona Park on Sunday.

The home side were expected to struggle without four key players against a side hungry for the points to stay in touch with leaders Waverley.

Two chances for Granville and one for Auburn were the limited opportunities in a do-or-finish 45 minutes that the home side began without, Vlado Zoric (transfer wrangle), sweeper Paul Souris (suspended), Rene Li-

cata and Tony Perinich (both injured).

Auburn's chances looked hopeless two minutes into the second half when Alex Aroujo pounced on a rebound after keeper Ross Pinto could only partly catch the crisp drive.

The match however began to swing Auburn's way, Paul Petrone snared the equaliser after 54 minutes, before Michael Reda put the home side ahead after Safet Susic provided a neat pass in the 65th minute.

Granville were reduced to ten men following a scuffle minutes later and Auburn added their third through Hassan Kdouh after 75 minutes.

Michael Reda grabbed his second ten minutes from the end as Auburn looked to be coasting towards the three points.

As Auburn continued to press home their advantage Aroujo and Piriz broke away and netted for the visitors in the final ten minutes, but the home side hung to stretch their unbeaten run to four.

Cypriot International, Panikos Xiouropoulos netted his third goal in two weeks to help Cyprus United on their way to a 2-1 win at the Central Coast, while a Craig Smith goal in the first minute was enough for Mt Druitt's first home win in two months, a 1-0 win over Gladesville.

Two chances for

WARATAH STATE CUP SEMI-FINALS

AVALA 3
CANBERRA METRO 0

AVALA shook off the challenge of an understrength Canberra Metro with goals immediately either side of half time and a third in stoppage time, to advance to the final.

Playing in front of a handful of officials, the eerie sounds of the twenty two players yelling instructions to one another lent the Gabbie Stadium an atmosphere which few would wish to see — or hear — repeated on such an important occasion.

Canberra started the game without Ned Zelic, the subject of a new wrangle with his parent club Sydney Croatia and missing the reliable Brad Maloney and injured 'keeper Tony Giancaso.

They never really settled and stand-in custodian Paul Jones had a game he would rather forget.

Avala took the lead in the 44th minute after earlier putting together by far the better moves of the two sides on show.

Jones got up to punch a ball clear and in so doing a defender, Mladen Rogic, showed dissent concerning an alleged foul during the incident.

An indirect free kick awarded to Avala 12 metres out was slipped to Mirko Radosavljevic who found the roof of the net in crisp fashion.

Three minutes after the restart Avala was two goals up, a shot by David Fitzharris being deflected into the Metro's net by a defender.

Canberra's best chance had fallen to Paul Foster, whose header in the 15th minute from a Stan Dukic corner skimmed the bar.

Foster, one of the few to shine for the Canberra side, missed another chance in the 86th, with only Pupovac to beat. By that stage all hope had diminished.

Avala rubbed salt in during injury time, a low drive by Osvaldo El Ali from 15 metres being tucked neatly inside the post.

Canberra, apart from Foster and to a lesser extent Doug Marcina, seemed lost without coach Tom Sermann and their Soccerroos stars.

Avala marched into the final with polished display which will give Blacktown something to think about.

AVALA: Pupovac, Benitez, Radovic, Ashton, Radosavljevic, Divljak, Berry, Bundalo, El Ali, Ackery, Fitzharris.

CANBERRA METRO: Jones, Marcina, Gagetti, Koch, Rogic, Pratezina (Musitano 46), Dukic (Grassick 77), Swann, Foster, Lemezina, Ravenello (Roberts 69).

REFEREE: Manny Loupis.

BLACKTOWN CITY 2
MOUNT DRUITT 1

MOUNT Druitt Town Rangers can hold their heads high after their 2-1 semi-final loss to Blacktown City at Popondetta Park on Wednesday night.

Two penalties held the key to the outcome of this game, but although the game went to extra time, it was not a penalty shoot-out we were talking about there.

Mount Druitt, level at 1-1 moments before the first break at the end of 45 minutes, were awarded a penalty when Wayne Farnsworth came down as he prepared to shoot from right in front. The spot-kick was skied over the bar by Craig Lowe to deny the 2nd Division side a half time lead and there were no further goals until a total of 117 minutes had elapsed in the game.

Blacktown had begun well and with the exuberant Geoff Gunning carving out a regular pathway down the left flank, opportunities came thick and fast for the Demons.

It was Gunning himself who took on several defenders and put a low shot in off the right hand upright in the 18th minute and for while it looked as though there might be a good deal more to follow that 1-0 early lead.

Mount Druitt, to their credit, refused to panic and went about their business to a well planned pattern.

After good lead-up work by David Bell, Farnsworth was able to slip the ball through to Craig

Smith who took his time and carried the ball wide before sizing up Mike Gibson and tucking a neat shot under the big 'keeper's body for the equaliser, in the 41st minute.

The second period and most of extra time was a lively affair, with numerous chances at both ends thrilling a small crowd which peered through the enveloping mist at a game they had hardly expected to produce such quality and excitement.

Derek Jenkins was in superb form for Mount Druitt, shaking off a slow start to bring off many immaculate saves, but even he could not prevent the Demons wrapping it up in the last few minutes.

A most unfortunate handball by a Town defender, as a corner was swept across from the right, left referee Mike Roberts with no alternative but to point to the spot.

Dominic Longo did everything necessary with the perfect penalty.

For Mount Druitt it was a performance which will live long in the memory and one that should ensure the continued success of the Waratah State Cup in future years if it can come up with matches like this.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Gibson, Longo, Callahan, Lees, Williams (Xuereb 75), Begbie, Connolly, Bourke, McKenna (Hunter 80), Gunning, Easthorpe (Suman 46).

MOUNT DRUITT: Jenkins, D. Lowe, Bell (Close 87), Agius, Campbell, C. Lowe, D. Kerrigan, Downs, Smith, Farnsworth, D. Pratt.

REFEREE: Michael Roberts.

M.D.S.F.A.

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- NSW Level 0/1 Instructor.

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Campbelltown 2560

Tel Enquiries (047) 27 1691
Closes 12th July 1991

TOP GOAL SCORERS

8 Grant Bard (Sutherland).
7 Stewart Porter (Rockdale), Bruno Beddoni (Rock), Tony Lemezina (Can), Scott Gilbert (Syd Mac).

6 Jose Iniate (Warr).
5 Robbie O'Shea (Suth), Paul Foster (Canb), Randell Easthorpe (Black), Darryl Sharp (Suth), Lawrie McKenna (Black).

4 Sasha Bozkovski (Syd Macedonia), Anthony Versi (Warr), Sasha Spirovski (Syd Mac), Louis Dounis (Can), Harry Christodoulou (Suth), Rod Wyatt (Pol), John Koch (Canb), Jarek Nowicki (Pol), John McKie

(Warr), Osvaldo El Ali (Avala), Ralph Maier (Australs), Stephen Berry (Avala).

3 Alex Bundalo (Avala), Nick Oustambasidis (Cant), Tony Parison (Cant), David Ensor (Suth), Peter Katholos (Cant), Scott Diveridge (Rock), Shane Clinch (Suth), Zlatko Markovski (Rock), Geoff Gunning (Black), Fabian Kadric (Syd Mac).

2 Zoran Ilic (Cant), Wayne Pierce (Warr), Peter Murray (S Dist), Birol Sertbas (S Dist), Stan Suman (Black), Mickael Lardis (Suth), John Gregson (SD), Mike Pillemer (SD), Andy Callanan (Black),

(suspended), Rene Li-





He did it his way!

CANBERRA Croatia coach Ian Gibson is free to develop the ACT First Division side as he sees fit, the club's director in charge of soccer, Mirko Skrnjug, said.

"At this level our priority is promoting young players over gaining results," he said immediately after Croatia had beaten Weston Creek 2-0 in the semi-final of the Federation Cup.

"That was the understanding when Ian joined the club, and nothing has changed since.

"Canberra Croatia is the third team of the club behind the Metro's entries in the NSW League and as such is a breeding ground for young players who are just over the age for the NSW Youth Division.

"There was a bad result in the league last Sunday when we lost to Tuggeranong United 5-0 and Ian did offer his resignation, but it was not accepted.

"We have confirmed to him that he is under no pressure to win every game, and that his task is to develop players who can eventually be used by the Metros.

"And as you can see from tonight's game, if you bring on the good young players the results often take care of themselves."

From our man in Canberra Graham Cooke

Skrnjug confirmed that goalkeeper Dennis Maricic will be moved up to the Metro's squad after the injury to Anthony Giannasca.

THE ACT's oldest knock-out competition will be contested by two of its most colourful clubs as a result of the Federation Cup semi-finals, played at Deakin Oval.

Canberra Croatia beat Weston Creek 2-0, while Canberra City shook off the challenge of the only second-division survivor, ANU, by the same score.

Croatia, whose association with ACT soccer goes back to 1958, will be seeking to re-establish a tradition of trophy gathering which has been in recess since the club took over Canberra's NSL League entry three years ago; City, formed in 1977 to play in the inaugural National Soccer League, is building a reputation in local soccer which has seen it reach the last two Ampol Cup finals.

THE ASF has endorsed the nomination of Canberra's Zubeida "Bibi" Thayer as a linesperson at the Women's World Cup in China in November. Also endorsed is Marilyn Learmonth from Western Australia. The pair now have to wait to see if their nominations are accepted by the International Football Federation.



Canterbury striker Zoran Ilic challenged by Canberra Metro defender Joe Gagetti

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

STATE LEAGUE

ROUND 16

DIVISION 1

SATURDAY JULY 13

BHP Austral Rockdale Ilinden v Sydney Macedonia Sthn District Austral Park Hurstville Oval

SUNDAY JULY 14

Sutherland Shire v Cant/M'ville Seymour Shaw
Warringah F/W v Canberra Metro Cromer Park
Avala v Blacktown City Serbian Centre
Polonia v Manly Nth Shore Chopin Park

DIVISION 2

SATURDAY JULY 13

Waverley v Mt Druitt Town E.S. Marks Field

SUNDAY JULY 14

Mt Pritchard v Central Coast Mt Pritchard Gd
Cyprus United v Petersham Wentworth Park
Campbelltown v Gladesville Hby Bensley Road
Cranville Chile v Port Hacking Garside Park
Dulwich Hill v Auburn Yugal Arlington Oval

MATCH TIMES: (unless otherwise stated)

Reserve Grade commences at 12.30pm

First Grade commences at 2.30pm

PHONE RESULT SERVICE: 0055 22681

See State League action this week!

No contest

SYDNEY MACE 4
CANBERRA METRO 0

FABIAN Kadric and Scott Gilbert returned to their goal scoring ways with a brace apiece at Jensen Oval against a well below par Canberra Metro.

The 4-0 win was a return to form by Sydney Macedonia who are rarely troubled once they hit the lead in a match, but have lesser powers of recovery when the boot is on the other foot.

Kadric capitalised on a rebound when Scott Gilbert's shot in the 42nd minute had been blocked, after a ball in by Billy Pilovski.

Gilbert made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in

the 57th, following a handball by Doug Marcina.

Kadric bent the ball past Paul Jones in the 64th, before setting up Gilbert for the last goal in the 72nd.

Canberra substitute Tony Lemezina had a penalty shot saved by Tony Avellino, diving to his left, in the closing stages so it was a completely blank day for the Metros.

SYDNEY MACEDONIA: Avellino, Souris, Crkavski, Relevy, Pilovski, Kocza, Surjan, Bozovski, Kotsias, Gilbert, Kadric.

CANBERRA METRO: Jones, Milan, Vanzetti, Rogic, Marcina, Pratzelina, Swann, Foster, Ravanello (Lemezina 51st), Dukic, Gagetti.

REFEREE: Chris Smyth.

FEDERATION LEAGUE 7TH DIVISION GR 1

K. Apollo	11	6	3	0	2	18	10	24		Rockdale Youth	11	9	0	2	29	12	27	
Ashbury	10	6	3	0	1	17	10	24		S. Cretans	11	8	1	2	18	9	25	
S. Cretans	11	5	4	0	2	28	16	23		K. Apollo	11	6	1	0	4	17	13	20
Western Subs	10	6	1	0	3	14	15	20		Ashbury S.C.	10	5	2	0	3	41	19	19
Salvadorean	10	4	3	0	3	15	13	18		Salvadorean	11	3	2	2	4	15	24	15
Marrickville SC	11	4	2	0	5	12	16			Western Subs	10	2	3	2	15	19	14	
Club Calabria	9	4	1	0	4	12	10	14		Marrickville	11	3	2	0	6	17	20	13
Rocdale Youth	11	2	1	0	8	14	30	6		Club Calabria	10	2	2	0	6	13	28	10
Cobrelos	11	1	0	0	10	8	25	3		Cobrelos	11	1	0	1	9	12	33	4

Big test

Interesting game on Saturday at

Austral Park where

Newcastle BHP Austral

take on Sydney Macedonia.

Despite the strong

win by Macedonia

over Canberra, we

expect Australs to

continue their re-

cent form and win

the game comfort-

ably, especially as

Macedonia does no

fare well on long

trips.

On Sundat Rockdale

should defeat Southern

Districts at Hurstville

Oval, Zlatko Markovski

being a key figure in

this match.

Sutherland are get-

ting worried now that

they have failed to win

since 9th June and to

retain a hold on the lead

they must beat Can-

terbury at Seymour Shaw

Park. Everything

points to a draw here

and it should be a safe

bet, with goals hard to

come by.

Warringah Freshwa-

ter are going to meet

Canberra Metro at a

time when the visitors

are understrength and

without guiding light

Tom Sermanni. A win

is expected by the

Northern Sydney side

at Crome Park, with a

two or three goal mar-

gin possible.

Avala and Black-

town meet in a Waratah

State Cup rehearsal at

The Serbian Centre and

the unpredictable Ava-

la must win soon in the

State League to keep

their supporters happy.

Patchy form of late

has been far from pleasing,

the quality of their soc-

cer not withstanding.

Blacktown this time

may frustrate them

again, a score draw

being a likely outcome.

Polonia are

weakened at present

and if ever Manly North

Shore is going to win a

game it is this one at

Chopin Park, where the

winner will be the side

which makes the fewest

mistakes.

Victorian Premier League



ST ALBANS 2 (Pondeljak 2) FAWKNER 2 (Stubbins, Emmanuel), MOOROOLBARK 1 (Burton) GREEN GULLY 4 (Campbell, Smart, Hunter, Rastocic), BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 2 (Doyle, Minichiello) ALTONA GATE 3 (Lingurovski, Kebakoski, Egan), CROYDON CITY 1 (Field) ALBION 3 (White 2, Patterson), DOVETON 0 NORTHCOTE CITY 3 (Panagopoulos 2, Iliopoulos), OAKLEY 2 (Haidaris, Stefanou), THOMASTOWN 0 MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Daly).

Victorian Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brun's Utd. Juv.	18	10	5	3	28	9	25
Fawkner	18	8	7	3	25	19	23
Morwell Falcons	18	9	4	5	29	18	22
Altona Gate	18	9	4	5	24	19	22
Bulleen	17	7	7	3	29	20	21
Croydon City	18	7	6	5	23	22	20
Thomastown	17	8	3	6	23	13	19
Green Gully	18	5	8	5	20	18	
St. Albans	18	5	7	6	21	25	17
Albion	17	5	6	6	23	19	16
Oakleigh	17	5	6	6	25	23	16
Northcote City	18	4	4	10	16	32	12
Mooroolbark	18	5	1	12	17	32	11
Doveton	18	0	6	12	6	38	6

MOST EXCITING/PLAYER VOTES UPDATE

LEADING VOTEGETTERS	LEADING SCORERS
10 Incantalo (Bull)	11 Pondeljak (StA)
8 Gymnopoulos (Nth), MacNicol (Juve)	10 Pappas (Bull), Bevincovski (GG)
7 Bevincovski (GG), Hodgson (Dove)	7 Goutzoulis (Oak), McAleer (Thom)
6 Goutzoulis (Oak), McCallan (Moor), Nicoski (AG), Upton (MF), Pondeljak (StA), Grbac (Bull).	6 Hanna (Fawk), McMullen (MF), Egan (AG), Nield (MF), Grbac (Bull).

VIC SENIORS

STATE LEAGUE DIV ONE		STATE LEAGUE DIV THREE	
Kings City	19	11	3
North Geelong	19	11	3
Springvale	19	11	3
Frankston	19	9	4
Central City	19	9	4
Wendouree	19	8	4
Riverton	18	5	7
Werribee	15	5	7
Western Subs.	15	5	5
Essendon City	15	5	4
Bellarine	17	5	4
Moorabbin City	15	4	5
Altona	15	4	5
Frankston Park	15	3	5
Heidelberg City	15	2	5
Carlton	15	2	5
Clarendon	18	6	5
Lakeview	18	6	5
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Vic Health supports the
Victorian Soccer Federation



Gate shut

ALTONA GATE 3
CROYDON CITY 1

BY
VLADO VLAHOVIC

ALTONA GATE finally halted its three week losing streak after convincingly disposing of fellow title-threat Croydon City 3-1, for only its second home win of the season at Paisley Reserve on Sunday.

Altona totally dominated the gritty Croydon outfit in the first-half and could have gone into the break three goals ahead.

Simon Micevski blasted over the top from close range, Robbie Georgievski totally missed his chance with an open goal gaping and Arthur Davis also missed an open goal from a Charlie Egan cross.

Altona, finally went ahead a minute from the break when Egan sent a precise cross to Tony Lingurovski, who made no mistake with a firm close-range header at the near post.

Only a few minutes into the second half saw Croydon score a surprise

equaliser courtesy of a square defence. Spencer Field raced in behind the disorganized back-line to clinically strike home.

Croydon caused a couple more anxious moments for Altona but not enough to seriously threaten and Altona soon re-asserted full control of proceedings.

Big John Markovski forced a couple of fine saves from John McKinlay but it was Jimmy Kebakoski, who found the target after 73 minutes with a 20 metre shot that took a wicked deflection to nestle into the near corner of the net.

Altona rounded off the scoreline right on the stroke of full-time after Lingurovski was man-handled as he weaved his way into the area. Egan converted the spot-kick with a shot into the bottom left hand corner of the net.

ALTONA GATE: A.Micevski, S.Micevski, Momcilovic, T.Markovski, Kebakoski, Georgievski, Torevski (Todorovski), Davis, Egan, J.Markovski, Lingurovski.

CROYDON: McKinlay, Ospasins, Nolan, Dobson, Brack, Brown, Cubitt, Humble, McGeachy, Kiepac, Field.

Falcons nest!

THOMASTOWN 0
MORWELL FALCONS 1

BY **PETER SIOMOS**

MORWELL FALCONS gave its championship hopes a considerable boost when it accounted for a talented Thomastown outfit 1-0 at Partridge Reserve on Sunday.

In an evenly fought contest the Falcons had the clearer chances and could have added to the final scoreline if it wasn't for the excellance of Robert Brian in Thomastown's goals.

With only five minutes left in the half Thomastown received a set-back when speedy Lou Bekaria was sent off the park for allegedly striking O'Dell.

As so often happens when a team is reduced it finds a little extra to enhance its performance and in the 48th minute a George Mihos free-kick was well saved by Morwell keeper Dave Reynolds.

In the 60th minute, Nino Di Martino found Victor Cristaldo at the far post who hesitated for too long before shooting and in the end shot straight at Reynolds.

Morwell got its winner with only two minutes left on the clock just when a draw seemed a foregone conclusion. Cassar chipped to Tom Daly who finally found a way past Brian with an overhead special.

Thomastown made a

desperate late surge for an equaliser but it was all to no avail as the Falcons defence held firm led ably by Ian Roodhouse.

THOMASTOWN: Brian, De Propertis, Farquharson, Karic, Di Martino, Daly, E.Cassar.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Harris, Upton, O'Dell, Roodhouse, Pender, McMullen, Baldacchino (Wright), Harrison, Daly, E.Cassar.

Juve jumps

JUVENTUS 2
BULLEEN 0

BY **CON STAVROS**

THE CLASH of the heavyweights at Middle Park on Sunday saw Juventus emerge with a 2-0 victory over Bulleen in a classic derby encounter.

Punctuated with goal-mouth action and bristling with passion, the eagerly awaited duel proved to be an excellent advertisement for the Premier League as the Italian giants stood toe-to-toe in a battle to the death.

Last week's villain Jeff Doyle turned hero for Juventus when his cheeky free-kick opened the scoring early in the second-half.

Moments before full-time Reno Minichiello slayed the brave Bulleen challenge when his solo run and shot from seemingly an impossible angle somehow squeezed into the back of the net.

Custodian's Peter Laumets and Mauro Raponi excelled in the encounter.

ter and were often called into action to make some breathtaking interceptions as the opposition forwards raided the goalmouths with fervent and vigorous regularity.

A disallowed goal for a questionable handball, Bulleen utilising Damian Mori as central striker and marshalled by midfield general Fabio Incantalo were desperately unlucky not to have shared the points with Juve.

Juventus to their credit have no Achilles heel and were served magnificently by its troops particularly by Fausto De Amicis, Paul Della Rocca and Brian MacNicol in a display that clearly signals Juve as the super power of the Premier League.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Doyle, Corvan, Della Rocca, MacNicol, Sabatino, Smith, Minichiello, Grillo (Ferla), De Amicis.

BULLEEN: Raponi, Valentic, Krajacic, Thodis, Pappas, Incantalo, Grbac, Ruccia, Branov (Tuck), Marsan, Mori.

Oaks down

NORTHCOTE 3
OAKLEIGH 2

BY

PETER KOTSIRIS

IN what was a game of contrasting halves Northcote defeated a less than full strength Oakleigh by 3-2 in the Greek derby at John Cain Reserve on Sunday.

First-half action was virtually non-existent except for two very good chances for Oakleigh, though Angie Goutziouli who managed to beat the keeper but lose control of the ball and Zdravko Lujic who was denied brilliantly by Northcote keeper Mark Tarudia.

Circumstances changed for the better after the interval with five goals produced, Northcote came closest first, after an hour's play a sterling run by Arthur Kokkinos resulted in a fine shot that scraped past the upright.

Minutes later, however, Northcote played with renewed enthusiasm and took the lead with a goal out of absolutely nothing, John Panagopoulos won the ball in midfield and hammered a 25 metre drive into the corner of the net.

Oakleigh didn't take

long to equalise and fought back with their very next attack, a good run by Goutziouli resulted being put away from inside the penalty area by defender Nick Haidaris.

In what was turning into a ding-dong battle, Northcote hit the lead again after a Jim Constantinou corner was met sweetly on the volley by Panagopoulos to give keeper Mike Alexandropoulos no chance.

Nearing full-time Northcote put the game virtually beyond doubt when good work by John Metaxas inside the penalty area who found Jim Constantinou and he put away six yards.

Moments later, Oakleigh gave itself some glimmer of hope after a wonderful build-up involving Carl Halford and Angie Goutziouli resulted in a through ball to Con Stefanou who comfortably beat the on-coming Mark Tarudia.

NORTHCOTE: Tarudia, Mesourini, N.Constantinou, Kouremenos, Anezakis, Panagopoulos (Tsangas), Nalpantidis (Jillopoulos), Gymnopoulos, Metaxas, Kokkinos, J.Constantinou.

OAKLEIGH: Alexandropoulos, Nicolaidis, Theodoropoulos, Vagias, Gourias, Haidaris, Stefanou, Leonards, Halford, Gutzloullis, Lujic.

White hot

ALBION 3
DOVETON 0

BY **DAVID BEARD**

ALMIGHTY ALBION totally outplayed a disappointing Doveton to win 3-0 which included two goals from striker Dale White at Selwyn Park on Sunday.

The match started 20 minutes late due to a ground change by referee Bernie Upjohn who adjudged the no.1 surface unplayable for Premier League soccer.

Just before the final whistle, the Barkers' Rob Mantel had a fine chance but keeper Sant charged off his line to make a brave save at the feet of Mantel to rob Mooroolbark of any further say in the game.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Hogben, Belic, Kuzman, Chetcuti, Smart, Campbell, Rastocic, Azzopardi, Bevincovski, Hunter.

MOOROOLBARK: Po-sar, Mantel, A.Byrne, Campbell, Hobson, McCallan, Van Egmond, D.Byrne, McIntosh, Brogan, Burton (Heys) (Nyholm).

was not given decent service and those few he did receive lacked the necessary accuracy.

The home side increased their lead after 83 minutes after industrious Scott Patterson looped a header over goalkeeper Brad Zeally after a long ball from Les Carter.

A minute later Andrew Freund hammered at goal however, keeper Zeally palmed the shot against the crossbar and the rebound fell to ever-alert White who pounced to score his second and Albion's third and final goal.

A brilliant solo run and 'goal' by Les Carter was disallowed three minutes from time when the linesman ruled for off-side after seeing the 'invincible' man.

ALBION: Toth, Butrakowski, Grimaud, James, Russell, Carter, Douglas, Patterson, White, Freund, Stefanou (Macleod).

DOVETON: Zeally, Brown, Cox, McNamee, Hodges, A.McCormick, Ireland, Luxford, Cattermole, Blessington, M.McCormick (Costin).

Big draw

ST ALBANS 2
FAWKNER 2

BY
TONY ABATE

ST ALBANS DINAMO and Fawkner Azzurri played out a 2-2 draw in one of the most exciting games of the season to date at Churchill Reserve on Saturday.

St Albans fielded a side which could have easily been mistaken for a Melbourne Croatia XI. Dinamo took the early lead when Ollie Ponderjak received a short pass from Ivan Duzel and launched a low shot past Fawkner custodian Dean Anastasiadis.

Twelve minutes later, Ponderjak basked himself in glory once more when he converted a penalty which had been earned thanks to the efforts of Mark Silic.

With the game all but won from a St Albans point of view, Fawkner opened up the game once more minutes before half-time when Robert Tombolato was used as a perfect decoy for Phil Stubbins to head into an unguarded net from a

Carlos Retre corner.

Six minutes after the re-start, Stubbins acted as the main protagonist once more when he launched a free-kick which keeper Grgic could only deflect to the waiting feet of substitute Sebastian Emmanuel, who made no mistake from close range.

As the game developed into a never ending saga of missed opportunities, Ivan Kelic unleashed a shot which was miraculously saved by the desperate Anastasiadis who had been embarrassingly exposed by his defence only metres away from goal.

Not to be outdone by his colleague, Grgic pulled off the save of the match seconds before full-time, with a life-endangering effort from the feet of Stubbins.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Katsikidis, Marth, Colina, Duzel, Skenderovic (Luburic), Silic, Ponderjak, Kelic, Johnson, Cuze.

FAWKNER: Anastasiadis, Walsh, Tombolato, Schipano, Wilson, Luchesi, Hanna (Emmanuel), McBride (Gabrielson), Retre, Stubbins, Vlatkovic.

Gully not green

MOOROOLBARK 1
GREEN GULLY 4

BY **MANNY GAMBIN**

GREEN GULLY AJAX demolished a spirited Mooroolbark combination to the tune of 4-1 at Esther Park on Saturday.

The Barkers' three-pronged attack made life difficult for its team-mates for not fulfilling its defensive duties often enough, Gully star Sasha Bevincovski was kept in check by Gary Hobson.

After seven minutes Ken Smart missed an opportunity but three minutes later he made up for it by scoring Gully's opening goal via a poor clearance from Adam Byrne.

Only four minutes later Gully scored what

has to be soccer's strangest goals when John Campelj crossed a short lob to Derek Hunter but the ball eluded him, all players stopped as the ball got stuck in the mud.

Campelj, the only player at that stage that kept running, followed up to beat the on-coming keeper Martin Posar with neat placement to complete the scoreline.

Ajax went three goals up after a good build-up beginning within its own half by David Azzopardi running from right to left and he sent a cross to Bevincovski whose shot was bravely blocked by Posar but Derek Hunter followed up to score from a second attempt.

Two minutes into the second half Barry Burton's cross-shot was deflected past Charlie Sant in Gully's goals for the Barker's consolation.

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Vlado Vlahovic's State Preview

TITLE-contender Bulleen Veneto faces improved Thomastown at the impressive Veneto complex in this week's match of the day on Sunday.

These sides shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw in the earlier season fixture, but neither outfit will be happy with a draw on this occasion as they strive to bridge a small gap between themselves and the Premier League leaders.

With six wins from seven games, Thomastown can safely claim the title of most improved side in the competition.

On the other hand, Bulleen were undefeated for nine weeks and looked a million dollars against the previously feared Altona Gate combination with it trounced them 5-0 with an awesome display.

The Italian derby will no doubt satisfy the expected large attendance and the Veneto club will start favourites against the desperate red-and-blacks, who make a habit of surprising.

★★★

TITLE- ASPIRANT Croydon City battles league leader Bruns-wick Juventus in another big weekend

clash at the plush Dorset Gardens complex on Sunday.

Croydon has slipped a couple of notches on the table in recent times and Juventus had a shock loss to Italian rivals Thomastown two weeks ago at home, which adds further spice to this encounter, with both sides desperate to make them both.

interesting to see this week's line-up.

★★★

THE battle between Western regional rivals Green Gully and St Albans Dynamo takes place at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday.

Both sides shared the points in their earlier season clash in a 1-1 draw and a similar result would not surprise with fluctuating fortunes and a similar position for them both.

★★★

ANGIE GOUTZIOLIS inspired Oakleigh tackles the battling Barkers of Mooroolbark at Caloola Reserve on Sunday.

Oakleigh has displayed some impeccable form in recent times and has only slipped on the odd occasion. Oakleigh will start slight favourites against the Barkers, who always give a good account of themselves.

The Barkers rely heavily on striker David McCallum and goalkeeper Martin Posar and, if they can quieten Goutziolis, anything is possible.

★★★

WINLESS Doveton battle against the odds when they meet slipping championship contender Altona Gate at Waratah Reserve on Sunday.

Just a few short weeks ago Altona looked like



ANGIE GOUTZIOLIS

world beaters but then the wheels fell off and they lost three games on the trot and coach Roy McLaren must be shaking his head in disbelief.

Doveton took a point off Altona earlier in the season and even they are probably quietly confident of causing a major upset again to further trouble the naturally-skilled Macedonian outfit.

★★★

TOPSY-TURVY Morwell Falcons faces debt-ridden Northcote City at North Cribbin Reserve on Saturday.

The Falcons trounced the Northerners earlier in the campaign and will no doubt want to rub salt in the already deep wounds of Northcote City, who are battling against time in their quest for financial survival.

THIS WEEK

Victorian Premier League

Sat, 13th July Round 19
Morwell Falcons v Northcote City, Doveton v Altona Gate.

Sun, 14th July

Oakleigh v Mooroolbark, Green Gully v St Albans, Bulleen v Thomastown, Fawkner v Albion, Croydon City v Bruns Utd Juventus.

Sat, 13th July Round 17

Altona East v South Werribee, South Springvale v Westdale, North Sunshine v Williamstown, Malvern City v Brunswick City, Yallourn v Forest Hill, Frankston United v Melton, Knox Park v Werribee City.

Sun, 14th July

Western Suburbs v Caulfield City, Frankston Pines v Box Hill, North Geelong v Westgate, Melbourne City v Springvale City, Ringwood City v Werribee, Mooroolbark v Port Melbourne.

Sat, 13th July Round 18

Clifton Hill v Sandringham City, Dandenong v Chelsea, Doncaster Rovers v Broadmeadows City, Kelso v Altona City, Sun's Heights Polonia v Brighton, Geelong v Waverley City, Nunawading City v Sunbury United, Bentleigh Greens v Richmond.

Sat, 13th July Round 19

Moorabbin City v Oakleigh Suburbs, Lalor United v Seaford United, Clarinda v Springvale Utd, Heidelberg City v Corio, Geelong Utd, Eltham/Dia Vale v Clayton, East Brunswick v Moreland/Coburg.

Sat, 13th July Round 19

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Sat, 13th July Round 19



GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

Thanks Len — goodbye!



HEIDELBERG will go into the 1991-92 NSL season without legendary coach Len McKendry and former Socceroo goalkeeper Jeff Oliver.

McKendry and Oliver have become the first victims of the new administration's across-the-board pay cuts.

McKendry has so far refused to talk to the media about the termination of his services,

saying simply that he couldn't accept the club's pay offer for the new season.

Heidelberg has responded by terminating McKendry's position with the club.

"I'm disgusted but I cannot comment as the matter is in the hands of my solicitors," McKendry told ABSW.

Oliver has also refused to be drawn on the issue, although I believe the former Socceroo, despite being at the peak of his career in goalkeeping years, was asked to accept a pay cut would have slashed his wages in half.

Reigning NSL champion South Melbourne Hellas is likely to bid for Oliver's services, and may have already done so.

Oliver is already confirmed as the only non-Hellas player set to tour Greece this month, for matches against PAOK and Panathinaikos.

Hellas has previously sounded out three possibilities as a back-up or replacement for grand final keeper Bruce McLaren, including relegated St George star John Filan and Sunshine George Cross youngster Frank Talia.

Meanwhile, many of Heidelberg's senior players, some still unpaid from last season, have expressed their disappointment of the dumping of McKendry.

"He's had success at every club he's been to and it's only because of him that the club won its place back in the NSL," said one.

Heidelberg played 67 league games over an 18 month period, winning

the Victorian State League in 1990 before moving straight into the NSL without a break.

The club finished the 1990-91 season in 12th position on the ladder, despite having moved into the elite league without any substantial recruiting and their lost top scorer Paul Lewis a third of the way into the new season.

John Margaritis has been mentioned as a possible replacement for McKendry at Olympic Village, with McKendry being touted as yet another contender for the vacant Melbourne Croatia coaching job.

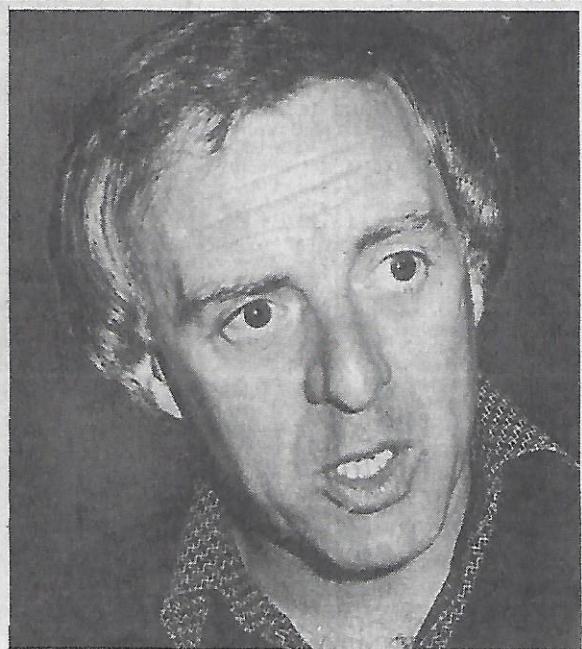
Oliver's replacement could be youngster Dean Anastasiadis, from Premier League club Fawkner.

Anastasiadis, who has had a sensational 1991 between the sticks at Jukes Road, is the son of one of the seven recently elected new committee members at Heidelberg.

The pay cut issue has come as something of a surprise, given that only two weeks ago Anastasiadis senior, speaking on behalf of the new administration, said that the club was looking at spending at least \$50,000 on new players for the coming season.

The new committee members, elected on the basis that they would clear the clubs massive debts, all pledged substantial cash donations to help Heidelberg pay off its debts to the bank and to the playing staff.

The cash input, allegedly totalling some \$200,000, was, in the words of Anastasiadis, to "give the club a fresh start".



On his way — LEN MCKENDRY.

Cut out agro

THE Victorian Soccer Federation has declared its intention to stamp out crowd violence at Victorian matches after handing down a series of tough penalties against allegedly troublesome clubs.

Victorian State League division three club Holland Park has been hardest hit by by the VSF's new iron fist policy, having been suspended for three years after brawls at one of the club's matches back in April.

The sentence was handed down by the Victorian Soccer Federation's investigations and disciplinary committee two weeks ago.

An appeal by Holland Park against the decision was set down to be heard last night (Monday).

The club, which has a history showing 22 other charges laid against it since the mid-1980s — many of them relating to misconduct, also forfeited a \$2,500 bond imposed earlier this season.

Other clubs hit hard by the VSF committee were Provisional League outfit South Werribee and Melton.

Those clubs were fined \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for their parts in crowd disturbances when the two clubs met earlier this year.

Holland Park president, Dr Bulent Munir, admitted that his club had considered taking out a Supreme Court injunction against the VSF in a bid to allow his club to remain on the field.

However, discussions between solicitors acting for the club and the VSF solicitors averted legal action.

Munir refused to rule out legal action against the VSF if last night's appeal is turned down.

Hellas ready to start up-date

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS HAS BEEN GIVEN A PROVISIONAL GO-AHEAD FOR ITS AMBITIOUS PLANS TO UP-DATE HOME GROUNDS AND MIDDLE PARK.

ne Dowling told Hellas the good news last week.

The approval of the plans, involving new double-storey club rooms and FIFA standard floodlights, will mean the first major upgrading of the famous ground for over two decades.

"We've been working on this for over 20 years", said a delighted Hellas president George Vasiliopoulos.

Lord Mayor Cr Sha-

port of the council is better than winning the championship".

And although nobody believes that for one minute, it is the third major boost for the biggest club in Victoria in the past three months.

With the championship drought-breaker back in May, the decision of coach Ferenc Puskas to remain back in June and the news that Middle Park is set for a facelift this month, Hellas is set to fairly steam into the 1990s.

"Getting the sup-

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(Public Holidays: 0055 38878)



The big secret of success

THE emergence of Frank Farina as our first fully fledged millionaire soccer player will already have made an impact on thousands of our young players throughout Australia.

To both budding soccer stars and their parents, it will be re-emphasised that Aussies have what it takes to make it right to the top of the tree.

Craig Johnston was the inspiration to young stars of the 80s.

How many of them, seeing his marvellous exploits for Liverpool, were stimulated to pack their bags and head overseas?

Eddie Krncevic in Belgium showed the way in Europe at the same time Johnston was winning medals in England with Liverpool.

Now it is Farina's turn at Bari, but this time it is the big kickies in Italy that Frank is getting stuck into and that is really tempting to youngsters in Australia.

But how can they bring their standard up to scratch, to warrant a place in the top leagues of Europe?

Well there is just two things they need to do.

The first is easy — set a goal.

Set a goal to play for a club in Belgium, Britain, Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy by a certain age, say 21.

That's the easy part, choosing a goal of where to play, usually a country where you may have family connections, thus overcoming problems of work permits and visas.

Now choose the path to reach your goal.

There are two paths to be taken.

One is to go to the country of your goal very early, say England.

Get there about age of 15 as Craig Johnston did.

The benefit of this is, you grow up with the higher standard of soccer you are seeking to play in.

The problem with this is, you forsake education and alternate work qualification if you do not make it in top soccer.

The second path, and so far most popular with our budding stars, is to wait until you represent Australia at the under 21 level or at senior level.

This is what Farina did.

Many parents have asked what should I do to prepare my son to make it overseas?

That is the hard part, whether you go overseas early or later.

It means years of hard, though enjoyable work.

Some years ago, I coached a squad of 12 young players, 12-15yrs, at 6am for three mornings each week, lasting one hour.

This was a limited period real-

ly, with only one real talent in the squad.

Nevertheless several of the players made it into the professional ranks at State League level.

Last Saturday, I went to watch Sutherland play Blacktown in State League and there was a lad playing for Sutherland second grade called Liddell, one of our 12.

On the same day, I watched Rockdale play Manly.

In the Rockdale team, and starring at left back was a lad called Greg Le Rond, the shining light of our 12 squad.

Greg spent only a brief time with us, whereas some spent three years, yet he is the one who is making it to the highest level.

This testifies that success in any career — sporting or otherwise, often requires some special talent. Greg is very quick with excellent left foot kicking skills.

Having said that, we know that Craig Johnston wasn't particularly gifted with technical skills.

On the other hand, he was blessed with drive and determination.

Some can make it to the top on those two qualities.

Manfred Schaefer did, Dave Ratcliffe did, both as defenders for Australia.

But defenders are generally not what are sought by overseas countries.

Defenders are plentiful the world over.

It is easier to take the ball off players than it is to keep the ball away from defenders with creative play that produces a final shot on goal.

It is the second category which Europe searches the world, especially for the one who can score.

Krnicevic, Farina, Mitchell, Slater, Arnold these are all Australian goalscorers who have made their mark overseas.

Our midfielders have also had some success and now liberos Paul Okon and Ned Zelic, midfielders playing in front and behind the defensive line, are also in demand.

This gives some clues for fathers of talented young sons, whom they may see as having a chance to play for Australia and/or play overseas, if given expert coaching.

Many soccer-playing fathers do coach up their sons.

In the aforementioned second grade game between Sutherland and Blacktown was a young midfielder named Harris.

He was the son of George Harris, former right back for St George and Australia in the Raleasic era.

I do not know whether George coached his son or has left him to the care of his junior club and rep team coaches and now to second grade Sutherland coach John O'Shea.

Or whether he engaged a senior or coach in his son's young years, to tutor him on a one off basis, in basic and positional skills.

The father of Brett Thorntwaite, National League player with Blacktown and Wollongong Macedonia engaged myself and Atti Abonyi (ex St George and Australian striker) to coach Brett individually, at dif-

'Our kids have the talent to play pro-soccer overseas, if they have the will!'



ferent times.

So, it is worthwhile to pay professionals in a boy's young years to give him a solid grounding in the basic skills of kicking — receiving — running with the ball and tackling.

After this can come the positional skills of shooting, dribbling, passing including wall-passes, (or 1-2-s) shielding the ball, overhead (scissor-kick) shots, heading, including near-post and far post heading at goal.

The team skills need to be learned from a good rep coach in the early teams.

It is better to choose a good coach rather than a good club when looking to place a boy in a rep team.

Somewhere along the line, it is vital that the lad learns about 'vision' which allows him to know where he is going to pass the ball before he gets it.

It is just as important that someone teaches the young player in his teens to be competitive.

Some are born this way. Many

are not, but can become so.

Competitive players are generally fit. Fit players are not necessarily competitive.

Skilful, competitive, fit players are needed for top Soccer.

Many players have two of these qualities, but not all three.

If you are not skilful you have to be very competitive and fit.

If you are not competitive you have to be very skilful and fit.

If you have only two of these three golden qualities of a soccer player you will always have to be competitive.

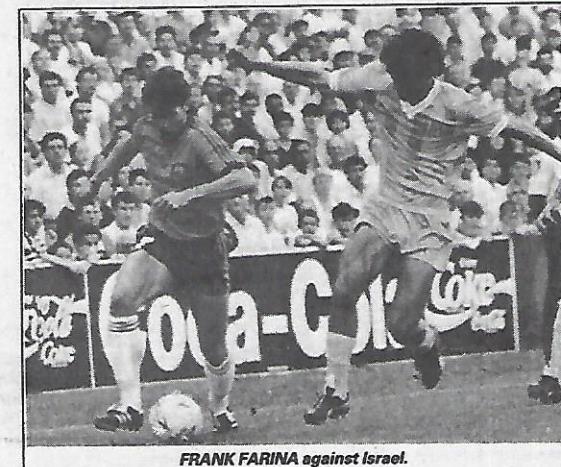
The Australian player has been shown to be fit and competitive with reasonable skill that can be embellished with full time training in top company.

So if he can play, get your son to set a goal and get him good tuition.

In the meantime, look around for an overseas club, either through a friend or an agent.

And fine a good solicitor to make sure the contract is right.

This above all is very important!



FRANK FARINA against Israel.

EDDIE KRNEVIC in action.

SOUTH AMERICAN



CARNIVAL



South America's National Championship — The Copa America — is put on the line for the 28th time from July 6-21 in Chile. Michelangelo Rucci looks at the transformation South America's best 10 are making between Italia '90 and USA '94.



Carlos Kiese

THE POOLS

GROUP A

Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela

GROUP B

Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay

THE DRAW

JULY 6	Paraguay v Peru at Santiago
	Chile v Venezuela at Santiago
JULY 7	Colombia v Ecuador at Vina del Mar
	Uruguay v Bolivia at Vina del Mar
JULY 8	Chile v Peru at Concepcion
	Argentina v Venezuela at Santiago
JULY 9	Uruguay v Ecuador at Vina del Mar
	Brazil v Bolivia at Vina del Mar
JULY 10	Paraguay v Venezuela at Santiago
	Chile v Argentina at Santiago
JULY 11	Colombia v Bolivia at Vina del Mar
	Brazil v Uruguay at Vina del Mar
JULY 12	Peru v Venezuela at Concepcion
	Argentina v Paraguay at Concepcion
JULY 13	Ecuador v Bolivia at Vina del Mar
	Brazil v Colombia at Vina del Mar
JULY 14	Argentina v Peru at Santiago
	Chile v Paraguay at Santiago
JULY 15	Uruguay v Colombia at Vina del Mar
	Brazil v Ecuador at Vina del Mar
JULY 17	Winner of Group A v Runner-Up Group B at Santiago
	Winner of Group B v Runner-Up Group A at Santiago
JULY 19	Winner of Group A v Runner-Up Group A at Santiago
	Winner of Group B v Runner-Up Group B at Santiago
JULY 21	FINAL AT SANTIAGO

OUT with the old; in with the new. All 10 South American nations chasing the 28th Copa America have taken hold of his philosophy by employing new coaches and players for the long haul to the 1994 World Cup.

But no two teams will be under the microscope more than Argentina and Brazil.

Argentina, disgraced as the defending World Cup holder in Italy exactly 12 months ago, will for the first time in 10 years be without its chief pirate Diego Armando Maradona, now caught in the jaws of justice for drug use.

Brazil, the defending champion, is truly starting anew as it tries to chase the riches of yesteryear. But so far poor results have left Brazil still confused as to how to achieve success that once seemed its divine right in soccer.

Brazil was the first South American nation to name a new coach after Italia '90. It gave the task of rebuilding Brazil's reputation to Falcao and immediately tied his hands by demanding he pick only locally-based players for the Copa America.

Unflattering results — a 1-1 with Paraguay, a 1-0 win at home against Romania B and a 3-3 with Argentina B in Buenos Aires — quickly had the CBD (the Brazilian Federation) granting Falcao the right to recall Brazil's European-based stars.

The picture has not improved since and now Falcao is blaming Brazil's female finance minister for his woes. Falcao says the financial crisis in Brazil is so severe his players are concentrating on their wallets not their games.

Falcao has threatened to resign if Brazil loses to Argentina — and he almost did so last week when Brazil went through its last warm-up match for the Copa America by playing the "old enemy" Argentina at the Pinheirao Stadium in Curitiba.

Argentina, proving it does not need Maradona, led after 50 min-

utes when Italian-based striker Claudio Caniggia stole a loose ball and drilled home a rocket.

Falcao tore up his resignation notice 15 minutes later when Neto scored from a penalty kick.

It was a tantalising prelude to the Copa America.

Argentina has replaced Carlos Bilardo with Alfio Basile, who has retained only four of the Argentine 1990 World Cup squad — Caniggia, goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea and defenders Oscar Ruggeri and Nestor Fabbri.

Basile, who is more attack-minded than his predecessor, had originally planned to go without any European-based players. His initial 25-man squad contained none, but then Basile relented to recalling Caniggia after Argentina stumbled to a 2-0 win against a weak Hungary, a scoreless draw with Mexico and the 3-3 draw with Brazil.

Ironically, two of Basile's original 25 — striker Sergio Zarate and midfielder Gerardo Martino — have been sold to European clubs.

Finding a replacement for Maradona as captain was easy. The Argentines only had to look at Ruggeri and his 62 international caps and two World Cup tournaments.

The Argentines have certainly been the most serious about winning the Copa America. They were the first in training and Basile has had his men working on the training pitch three or four times a week since January.

Uruguay has chosen Luis Cubilla, coach of Paraguayan club Olimpia, as the successor to Oscar Tabarez.

However, Cubilla has been too busy preparing Olimpia in its defence of the Copa Libertadores to head back to Uruguay where his brother Pedro has coached the National team. Cubilla has popped into Montevideo once a week to get status reports.

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Uruguay has kept only

three of its 1990 World Cup campaigners — goalkeeper Fernando Alves, midfielder Ruben Pereira and striker Sergio Martinez. Only Alves was a recognised star in Italy last year.

Colombia has had the greatest saga in finding a new coach.

When Francisco Maturana decided to stay in Europe after the 1990 World Cup and take on the task of coaching Spanish club Valdolid, he left his assistant Herman Gomez in charge of his club, Nacional, and the national team.

A power struggle at Nacional had Gomez replaced by Luis Garcia.

Now Garcia has been accused by colleague Jorge Pinto of Deportivo Cali of trying to bribe referees and players when he coached Millonarios from 1988 to 1990.

Both men have been suspended by the Colombian League for publicly insulting each other.

And to make Garcia's problems worse, the Colombian national team players want him to resign.

At this stage it is risky to suggest exactly who is Colombia's coach and what players make up its

squad for the Copa America.

Chile has given its national coaching job to Arturo Salah, coach of the nation's best team, Colo Colo. His selection has been criticised because Salah has no international experience.

Chile will recall winger Hugo Rubio, striker Ivan Zamoro and midfielder Jaime Vera, all experienced professionals from Europe.

Paraguay has called on 33-year-old former national team player Carlos Alberto Kiese to lead its new team to the Copa America. It would have preferred Cubilla but he's happier at Uruguay.

Ecuador will be the biggest improver at the Copa America. It has changed dramatically in its technical and tactical skills under the guidance of Yugoslav coach Dusan Draskovic, who has tried to blend the best of European and South American soccer in the Ecuador make-up. Unfortunately, he has not had enough friendlies in which to hone this mixture.

Peru has given its coaching job to Miguel Company, who has already complained about the quality of his players and

the local competition which went into recess on May 12 to allow Company to build a national team.

Bolivia, a team used to playing at high altitude, has cope with the low levels of Chile while Venezuela is still the baby of the bunch.

The 1989 Copa America was the South American teams' last step to Italia '90. The 1991 Copa America is the first step to USA '94.

The teams may be missing the big names, but they will all unveil the new hope and new playing styles that are designed to bring them success in the 1994 World Cup.

In contrast to 1989, the South Americans have played few internationals leading up to this Copa America. The reason — the South American club championship, the Copa Libertadores — was taking up the time of the continent's best players. The National Federations cannot force their clubs to release players for national duty, so they just gave up on the idea of a heap of friendlies before the Copa America.

Now the hostilities begin.



Claudio Caniggia



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



Little Ernie gets hitched

MODBURY mates gathered in the clubrooms on Thursday night for the 'last supper' for star Scottish import defender George Whyte.

He played his last game against Hellas on Saturday before heading for NZ. Visa restrictions have forced him to move out of Australia.

CROATIA, which has run into a poor season since parting company with former FIFA referee and coach Donald Campbell at the start of the season, believes a drop in confidence is the root of its troubles.

"We had a players' meeting to try to identify what was wrong with our game" team boss Tony Brenecki said. "We seem to be way down on confidence. But we are looking forward to a better run-in to the season."

THE introduction of junior development officers to Foundation League clubs is a step soccer chiefs here could examine to build on SA's blossoming junior soccer reputation.

The future of the game in SA largely is likely to be geared towards younger players.

And SA Soccer Federation general manager Tony Farrugia would welcome any move to boost that area of the game.

"Obviously that is something that could come in down the track," he said. "Just now, only the two NSL clubs have to have someone in the development role to meet Bradley Report requirements."

Officials from SA soccer's major sponsor, Foundation SA, have welcomed the development steps taken here by the team led by State director of coaching and development Officer, Carlos Buzzetti.

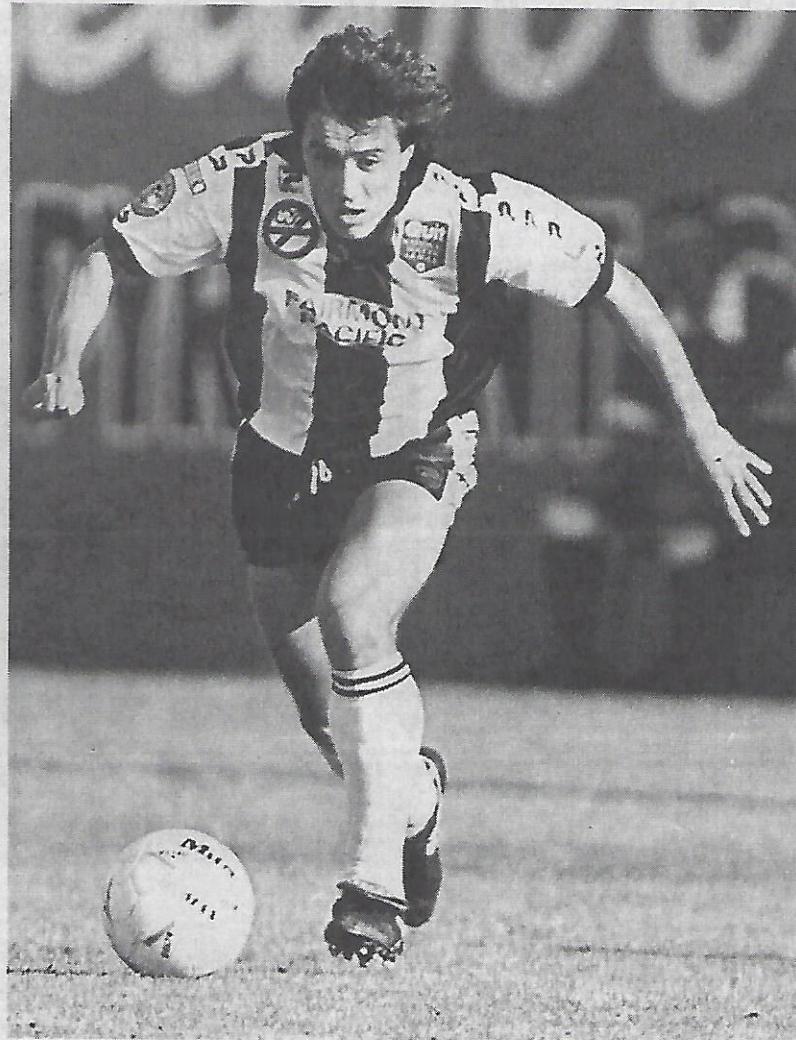
"We still have a year of their sponsorship to go but we want to keep them up to date with all the development in the game here," Farrugia said.

"We had a very worthwhile meeting with them and they seemed very impressed with the way we are spending their money in the junior development field."

Buzzetti staged a very impressive display of the development work that is going on throughout the State.

His work is warmly received in the country and benefits from extensive media coverage.

He leaves Adelaide



Adelaide City star Ernie Tapai: has tied the knot.

on Friday for a coaching stint in the Western Border region at Mt Gambier. On his return, he heads off for Whyalla and another course for the Northern Areas.

At the same time, John Evans holds a course at Broken Hill and Tony Radford will visit Port Pirie.

NSL development officers Aurelio Vidmar, of City and Hellas' John Kouronos, will go to Canberra for a Class 2 coaching course. Several other top level players here also could benefit from courses.

State Under 17 team hopefuls had their first trial last week at Veneto.

Coach Carlos Buzzetti has named a strong squad of 37 for the side. Those selected are:

Salisbury — Matthew Coutouvidis, Matthew Ryan; Croa-

tia — Peter Cindric, Frank Radic; Adelaide City — Daniel Sabatino, Jamie Perin, Neil Brown, George Atsikbasis, Paul Mazzarino, Corri Artone; Lion — Phillip Frisic, David Limareff; Hellas — Frank Tibaldi, Paul Agostino, John Pires, Nick Tsoukalas, Jim Tsekinis, George Karimalis; Birkalla — James Michell, John Fontanarosa; Polonia — Shane Porter, Bradley Hassell, Frank Sergi; Olympians — George Koliias; Campbelltown

— Paul Caporaso, Mario Rositano, Ricky Lombardi; Port — James Musci, Richie Alagich, Michael Tachos; Omonia — Jim Antonopoulos, Andrew Kilišić; Beograd — Simon Dacic; Modbury — Heath Webber; Para Hills — Sean Reynolds, Christopher Groom; AIS — Heath Robertson.

"It could have been a record score if not for him," Wincer said. "He was brilliant."

"We have threatened for a few weeks but have not put it all together until this game."

"Paul Wilde has been down on form but out wide on the left he was back to his very best."

Wincer is disappointed his star young de-

fender Matthew Coutouvidis still does not know of preparatory camp developments for the Joeys' world championship bid.

The Socceroo has agreed terms for a new two-year contract.

City now faces signing talks with most of the remainder of the first-team squad.

Even after conceding eight goals against Salisbury, USC Lion goalkeeper Archie Christakos was voted a real star coach by opposing coach Bob Wincer.

"We want to give him a rest so he is prepared properly for the Joeys but we do not know what is going on."

Coutouvidis is likely to replace another of the blossoming Berries, Matthew Ryan, 16.

"We have threatened for a few weeks but have not put it all together until this game."

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fender Matthew Coutouvidis still does not know of preparatory camp developments for the Joeys' world championship bid.

"We still do not know what is happening with Matthew," Wincer said.

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Wincer is disappointed his star young de-

Atsikbasis in your book as one to watch at Adelaide City.

The teenager was drafted into the City side for the 4-0 win against Blackwood and played a key role in two goals as well as initiating the move for a third.

Atsikbasis has trained with the Joey squad and looks a likely performer for the strong SA under-17 squad.

Blackwood chief Arthur Rutley was a man all alone.

He was the only onlooker to take up position on the western terracing.

Vantage spots were not hard to attract.

City lost money on the game with only a 'handful' of fans watching the action.

Salisbury striker Jeff Tyson is attracting rave notices.

His hat-trick from the penalty-spot against Lion was his fourth for the club.

A migrant, free-scoring Tyson is an unselfish front-line leader as well as powerhouse finisher.

"He is very quick and strong and leads the line well," Salisbury executive Jack Innes said.

"He has been a very good capture for us. I have not seen anyone hit the ball so hard as he does with his left foot."

"His first two penalties were like rockets. I'm sure the goalkeeper shut his eyes for the third and he slipped it into the corner."

SA's 'kid' referees have passed their first test with flying colours.

All who sat the Class 3 exam after their cadet referee course passed. The pass was 75 but the average mark was 89. Those successful were:

Jason King, Craig Simes, Matthew Cream, Dominic Violi, Peter Portway, Chris Davies, Sarah Griffiths, Mark Wood, Krzysztof Dadej, Sam Hosie, Brendon Scammell.

Course instructor was John Miller, with Frank Chadwick and John Harrison examiners.

The students will receive their certificates at presentation evening on July 11 when top ref officials will attend.

Salisbury United will be the first club in Australia to pilot a special new soccer development scheme for young people.

Roger King will be local co-ordinator of the

Challenge Achievement and Pathways in Sport scheme (CAPS) which is designed to offer participants the chance to develop valuable leadership qualities through sport.

"All schemes will be monitored by a central body in Canberra and the scheme will be nationally recognised," SA Development Officer Carlos Buzzetti said.

"It is an ideal way for people who, perhaps do not have the ability to carry on with a soccer career to stay involved in the game and be of valuable assistance to a club or organisation."

The CAPS plan offers youngsters between 14 and 20 years of age, the opportunity to learn new skills and provide community service by participation in four or more of the following activity areas — administration, refereeing, coaching, event/team management, sports health, participation, sportsfun.

Participants may use a combination of these activities to work towards each of the three Steps in the scheme.

Each Step unit will take a minimum of three months to complete. Step 1 begins at minimum age 14, Step 2 at least 15 and Step 3 at least 16.

On completion of Step 3, participants will be eligible for entry to the Australian Sports Commission's Sport Leader Award.

"The benefit of the scheme is that we can have a group of youngsters learning about different facets of the game and they then can help their club or organisation by passing back their knowledge and skills," Buzzetti said.

Two Adelaide City Socceroo stars faced lifetime landmarks at the weekend.

Tony Vidmar celebrated his 21st birthday on Saturday — the same day as team-mate Ernie Tapai married fiancee Stella.

Real champion spirit will be in the air on Saturday July 13 at the Union Hotel in Adelaide.

The local Glasgow Rangers Supporters' Club will hold a dinner-dance and social.

All Rangers fans and friends are welcome. Contact George Gordon on 268 3317 for tickets.



QUEENSLAND SOCCER

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Queensland's own beer

is supported by

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The stars in out of the cold!

Some of Queensland soccer's most recent glory days were re-lived when a legends' game was played at Perry Park last week.

A glance through the teamsheets revived memories of national-league days when Queensland teams dominated the Philips Cup and the pioneering years of the State League, a competition which provided an exciting standard of football now sadly missing in Brisbane.

While the pace was not as hectic, the brains were working as quick as ever and some of the moves oozed class if not intensity.

The match, which finally showed someone at Perry Park is listening to what fans want as curtainraisers, featured Queensland NSL select against a State League All Stars.

The NSL backline was a combination which on its day instilled fear into opposition defences. Only one or two grey hairs distinguished the backline of Peter Tokesi, Jim Hermiston, Col Bennett and Billy Wilkinson from how they looked a decade ago.

The mercurial Hermiston and Tokesi, in particular are still superbly fit, Wilkinson still has a sweet left foot and Ben-



OLD WAR HORSE JIM HERMISTON

nett still knows no other way than to tackle hard and frequently.

Lowndes, probably one of the finest keepers

to play in Queensland, belied his years to give an acrobatic display making three spectacular saves which would not have

been out of place in the current NSL.

North Star player-coach Billy Williamson was the only member of

the NSL team still playing at XXXX League level and stood above his team-mates in terms of workrate. But the touches of the others were a delight to watch.

Mark McNaughton, Eddie Spearit, Craig Low, big Barry Kelso, Alan Hughes and Ron Millman all showed glimpses of why they were, in their day, some of the State's best-ever players.

But the State League boys, whose team average age was a fraction younger and probably accounted for their 1-0 win, underlined that not all the best players in Queensland made it into the NSL, or played the majority of their football there.

Len Pollock was not surprisingly the scorer, finding the net as he had done so many times during State League stints with Grange Thistle and Mount Gravatt.

His team-mates read like a who's who of the State League. Rothman's medal winners Steve Dolan, Mick Rooney and Colin Knott, Ian Fagan, Paul Yeull, Martin Coe, Bevan Bohan and Brisbane City stalwarts Kim Wishart and Roberto Lettieri.

It was a great promotion and hopefully one the QSF will again stage.

**GREG RUSSELL
LOOKS AT THE
SUNSHINE STATE**

Hunter wants to be skipper

Former Socceroo

Alan Hunter is returning to Queensland and wants to captain Brisbane United in the National League.

Hunter's \$23,000 transfer from Paramatta Melita was finalised last week, clinching his return to the Sunshine State for \$6,000 more than when he left as a raw 21-year-old five years ago.

The big defender was always one of the most popular players in the State and wants to rekindle that reputation by taking on the captaincy of the new NSL team.

"I would love to captain Brisbane United in their first season, it would be a great honour," he said after his transfer was announced.

"With my background, I would expect to be strongly considered for the job — I'm in the right position at the back of the park."

Hunter is the first "name" player to be signed by the Brisbane club which has been under increasing criticism because of lack of activity in its preparation for the October NSL start.

Club officials hope the signing of Hunter will underline that the club is prepared to build a side

capable of competing and will encourage others to put aside any fears about coming to Brisbane.

Hunter, who will be employed as the club's junior development officer, has made it quite clear he expects others to be signed to play around him.

"The club needs to pick up a sweeper, a central midfielder, a goalkeeper and a striker to complement the talent already in Brisbane," he said.

"As long as the players are disciplined and stay disciplined and we promote the game right, Brisbane United will work."

Although Hunter already made early claims for the captaincy, Brisbane coach Miro Bleiberg said an appointment was still well off.

The team had its first training session together last week, but a captain will not be named until October.

Bleiberg conceded Hunter had "all the ingredients" and would be considered.

Brisbane United also are expected to announce the signing of a Dutch player and are close to sealing a deal with an English Second Division midfielder-striker.



ALAN HUNTER

Kiwis add spice

The lure of a trip to New Zealand is adding intensity to the final stages of Queensland's hectic representative programme this season.

Only 14 players will be selected for the match against Canterbury in New Zealand on August 14 and selection bids are coming from all directions.

But coach Juan Cutillas is likely to wait until after this month's big test against Auckland at Perry Park before naming his touring party.

Cutillas made it known he was not happy with his side's performance in the 2-2 draw with Otago at soccer headquarters last week and will be looking closely at all players over the coming month before awarding touring shirts.

That gives new hopes to form players in the XXXX League who are yet to get a chance in the state side. It also puts added pressure on current squad members to

maintain their form, or in some cases, improve their game.

Queensland were expected to sweep past Otago, who midweek had struggled to beat Gold Coast. But the under-rated New Zealand provincial team provided heroic defence and tested the much-criticised Queensland attack.

Auckland are rated far stronger than Otago or Canterbury, who Queensland also drew with 2-2 at Perry Park earlier this season, and the July 28 match could make or break the touring chances of several players.

A last minute goal from tireless Queensland skipper Frank Pimblett allowed the Maroons to save face against Otago.

Pimblett, who has hit a goalscoring purple patch for the first time in his 15-year career, netted his first goal for Queensland in a dozen performances when he punished Otago for failing to clear a bob-



FRANK MENGOTTI

bling ball from the penalty box in the final minute.

The draw, in front of a 2000 crowd, only marginally impressed Cutillas.

"It was a good result for the spectators but not so for Queensland," he said. "I thought we were gone."

Queensland worked tirelessly throughout the game but suffered yet again from an attack which penetrated, but

could not punish.

Otago packed their defence, expecting a Maroon onslaught, but were able to easily cope with wayward Maroon shots and inexplicable hesitations on the edge of the box.

Gold Coast striker Peter Dwyer, making his first appearance in the Maroons since being a part of the indoor team which toured the United States 12 months ago, was particularly effective. But his team-mates could not capitalise on the inroads the speedy winger made down the left flank.

Still, his performance was enough to underline his belief that Cutillas had erred two years ago when, as Lions NSL coach, he cut Dwyer from the Richlands Squad.

Queensland frustration in not turning dominance into goals led to sloppiness at the back and Otago broke successfully shortly after the break to take an unde-

served lead.

It was only then that Queensland displayed the commitment which should have enabled them to drill Otago in the first 45 minutes. Within 90 seconds of the Otago goal, the Maroons were back on level terms when Frank Mengotti pounced on a loose ball at the edge of the penalty box and drove an unstoppable shot into the net.

Otago tried their luck on the break again 10 minutes later and utilised a rebound off the woodwork to play a one-two past stranded Queensland keeper Stu Woodruff for a 2-1 lead.

The onus was then on Queensland to chase the equaliser to save face and it was a measure of the side's determination that they fought to the end and were justly rewarded with the late leveller.

"They worked for the result and were unlucky not to win," Cutillas said. "We lacked a bit of strike power but all of the boys put in a 200% effort."

JUNIOR JOTTINGS . . .



A real big boost for kids!



BY STEVE DARBY

Every soccer fan in the country must have been proud when they saw not once but twice David Seal's photograph on the front page of the Daily Telegraph.

Surely we have now broken through the media prejudice and that this game of ours is truly the World Game. This has also been further illustrated by national news coverage, great coverage by SBS, the game being discussed on the high rating Today Show and the eloquent interview by Mark Schwarzer on the Wide World of Sports on Channel 9.

I am not going to write about how good the Young Socceroos are, I will leave that to better wordsmiths than myself, but I want to illustrate how good the media influence has been. Not only have we dominated the sports pages and made the big headlines but we have had other small but highly significant victories.

A letter in the Telegraph read "go all the way Gary Jack and sue Mr Quayle, he lost my two sons aged 10 and 12 to Soccer".

Also in the arts section of the Sydney Morning Herald Leo hoofed wrote:

"somewhat jet lagged after the recent holiday I have been walking up around four in the morning and not finding it easy to get back to sleep. On Monday morning in desperation I flicked on the TV and found myself watching (now I know you will think this unlikely) the Semi Final of the World Youth Championships



DAVID SEAL

between Syria and the Young Socceroos on SBS, not much into sport really but I found this match riveting. The local lads were magnificent in the penalty shoot out. Late in the week I caught their match in Portugal and may yet be converted!

And I couldn't help

contrast in these games both elegant and skillful, with last weekend's brutish goings on at Leichhardt Oval in the match between Manly and Balmain. The close up of Gary Jack's face like a halloween mask made the flesh creep on the ABC news on Wednesday night and

was revolting. In most civilised countries they call this kind of thing thuggery, here we call it sport".

The Young Socceroos led magnificently by Les Scheinflug and Raul Blanco showed that you can be tough, hardworking and brave and still leave the most

lasting impression of skill. Next time I hear rugby league raving about record attendances of 28,000 I would like them to ask 18 young Aussies what it was like to play for your country in front of 112,000 people and leave a whole nation proud of them.

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Woy Woy wonders

REPRESENTATIVE teams from South Queensland, Northern NSW, NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT are participating in the 10th Junior Championship and the 7th Youth Championship for girls at Woy Woy on the NSW Central Coast until July 13.

The participation of the seven states marks a record number of entries in the booming underage competition.

Previous champion-

ships have been dominated by NSW and South Queensland.

NSW are aiming for their ninth Junior title, while the Youth team will be looking for their fifth to consolidate on their victory over Queensland last year.

South Australia have entered the Youth division for the first time and is expected to provide tough competition.

Similarly, the ACT is expected to at least maintain third place in each division.

National Youth Coach Peter Kelly is closely monitoring the pro-

gress of players throughout the titles before naming a 22-player squad for three Tests against New Zealand on 4, 6 and 8 September in Melbourne.

Experienced national team players like Claire Nichols, Tanya Corbett and Tammy Sprott (Qld), Jane Hornsby, Lisa Turnbull (NSW) and Angie Bean (ACT) are expected to form the nucleus of the young Aussie squad.

A national junior squad will also be selected for a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in October.

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP

The semi-final of Area 10 in the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup saw the eagerly awaited Ryde local derby between Malvina High, conquerors of defending champions Epping Boys 3-2 in the previous round and arch rivals Holy Cross College, who had beaten a couple of strong teams in James Ruse 4-2 and Oakhill College 4-0 in their previous couple of outings.

Both schools have been amongst the best performed schools in the Northern Districts over the past five years and due to a quirk of the draw, have often found themselves opposed most years in a thrilling Round 3 or 4 match, with the honours narrowly going to Holy Cross.

This year proved to be

no different. It was a stunned Holy Cross that saw Malvina take an early lead with a well taken goal from a lovely in-swinging corner scored by Michael Vitsas. This stung Holy Cross into attack and from one of their many raids a ball through the middle was mishandled by the keeper and Zan Kukucka following up was able to place the ball in the empty net. Play flowed freely from end to end till Holy Cross were awarded a free kick just outside the box. A free kick from Kukucka found Peter Adini who calmly slotted the ball through a forest of legs to give Holy Cross the half time lead.

In the second half Malvina continued to exert a lot of pressure through Stephen Crees and Chris Christou till a breakaway by Holy Cross with another through ball to Kukucka saw him seal a 3-1 win with a second well taken goal.

A wet field at Homebush

was the venue for an Area 9 semi between two teams having their best ever seasons in the competition — Homebush Boys and Seven Hills. It was Seven Hills who took an early lead with a clever lob from Nathan Hannan after the Homebush goalkeeper had come off his line. Within five minutes Homebush were back on equal terms after Peter Soros beat three defenders and placed the ball into the bottom right hand corner of the net. Just on half time Homebush's continual pressure was rewarded, when a free kick floated in from the right was nodded in by Roger Jakolovic.

The second spell saw Homebush dominating the midfield and David Droughton scored the final goal with a well placed shot from 20 metres. Best for Homebush were Tom Pantayi, Peter Soros, David Droughton and Roger Jakolovic who troubled the defence whenever he had the ball.

The various Sydney

Area finals see Merrylands play Homebush; Holy Cross meet Davidson; James Cook opposed to Hurstville Boys; Westfields take on Ambarvale and the inner of Colo and St Dominic's versus Rooty Hill coached by CHS Girls Convener Sue Andrews.



JUNIOR JOTTINGS . . .

The way to the top — Pele style!

WHAT I am today is a result of all the advice I have received right from the beginning, before I had even played in a proper game.

I have been helped by my trainers, the older players and my parents. Listen to the advice of your elders; they are always more experienced than we are.

Also listen to any tips from your friends. I'd like to tell you something which I have learned from people: you don't learn faults by looking or listening, they come from you, yourself.

If you become great, do your best to show why you are considered to be so good; if you only reach the level of a reserve player, then show that you are the best in that category.

Be a man, in failure and success. Only this way can you achieve personal dignity and earn the respect of your fellow men.

Never think that you know everything. There is always more to

learn and every day we get to know something new.

Before becoming a footballer, you should be an athlete; and before becoming an athlete, you should be a man.

Always be yourself! Don't try to imitate anyone or to be like someone. Create your own individual style. Don't try make yourself a 'Pele'. It is much more important to be yourself than Pele.

Never neglect your studies because of football or any other sport. You should organise your life so that you can satisfactorily spend enough time on both activities, or more.*

If you find that you cannot become a reasonably good footballer, don't be discouraged. Face life optimistically, because even if football has lost a good player, society might have gained a great man who can help his country in other ways if he is disciplined, confident and works hard.

No matter where he is, in the country or in the city, a man who re-

ally cares about the future of humanity and believes in Sport, Communication and Love must help to unite everyone in the world!

Dear friends, I hope that the advice I have given you will be as useful to you, in football and in life, as it has been to me.

* You have probably heard that I stopped studying to play football. Well, it's true. At that time of my life I had no idea how important education was; I even thought football was everything! Now I completely understand why my mother, Celeste, always used to say: 'Pele, leave that ball alone for a while. Come and do your homework'. You know that, in spite of this advice, I spent all my time and life on football. Many years later I realised how right my mother had been! I had to study. Football was not enough. I completed my schooling and then took a higher course in Physical Education. So I'm telling you once again: education and football are compatible. You can study and play at the same time and be a success in both fields. Go even further — not you can — you must!



Pictured with Pelé is René Colusso, who was a rising Marconi star and a Socceroo squad member when he headed off to establish himself in Italy.

St Johns surprise

One of the Cinderella teams in this year's Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup has been St Johns Park High from the Liverpool-Fairfield area.

The past has seen some good runs in the open competition, the Commonwealth Bank Cup, but in the Turner Cup they have never been beyond the second round. This year they have been the giant killers of the competition and have collected some noteworthy scalps along the way — Pat Brothers Liverpool in a penalty shootout, followed by Bonnyrigg 2-0 and then the traditionally strong Pat Brothers Fairfield 1-0 in the third round.

The area semi final saw them opposed to yet another strong side in Westfields, at home, in a game which was eagerly awaited, after St Johns Park had held the Metropolitan South West Under 15 representative side to a scoreless draw in a hard fought trial.

The game opened with both sides closing each other down quickly, not allowing the opposing attacks any freedom. Midway through the first half a lovely St Johns Park move saw the ball find David Komarek, who rounded the keeper to open the scoring. Westfields were stung into action but St Johns Park keeper Frank Marra repelled all attacks on his goal to enable his team to retain their lead at the break.

The second half saw Westfields beginning to dominate the midfield through Dennis Tot and Dalibor Strbac and providing a feast of possession for strikers Sean Babic and Pat Barilla who were causing their markers no end of trouble up front. Inevitably the equaliser finally arrived after 10 minutes, when a St Johns Park defender handled and Sean Babic made no mistake from the penalty spot. Five minutes later Babic received the ball on the left, went past two defenders and supplied an inch perfect cross for Pat Barilla to tap in to give Westfields the lead. St Johns Park fought to the end but were unable to reduce the deficit and it was Westfields who won their way through to the Area final, where they will be opposed to Campbelltown school Ambarvale, conquerors of Prairiewood 4-0 in the other semi. This should be a terrific match with each school supplying three members of the Metropolitan South West touring team to New Zealand.

THE 1991 Kanga Cup International Soccer Tournament which ran for eight consecutive days concluding with finals matches last Sunday has already revealed sufficient potential to ensure that it will become a major event on the Australian soccer calendar.

It can be suitably described as a festival of quality football and goals galore with teams from Europe, Mainland USA, Hawaii and New Zealand competing with Aussie teams.

The atmosphere at Auburn's Progress Park complex was quite exceptional. It ranged from the expected fierce competition on the playing fields to the friendliness of a quiet chat over lunch in the hospitality area. It was



BY ROBBIE WHEATLEY

quite common for one team to cheer on another, despite their rivalry, due to the friendships that were formed.

The standard of play was generally much higher than organisers had anticipated. The skill of the players, ranging in ages from twelve to eighteen years old, was absolutely amazing and a delight for

purist and uninitiated alike. The carnival atmosphere was supported by crowds which grew in numbers during the week long series of games involving 55 teams.

For organisers and their army of helpers the days were long and tiring but the enjoyment and friendships that were developed among visiting and local sides proved to be

satisfactory compensation.

While the soccer was the focus of activities for the week, the other attractions at Progress Park included a giant fun fair for the kids and \$10,000 kicking competition sponsored by Mercantile Mutual Insurance.

The opening ceremony at Melita Stadium was pure spectacle and included a march past of all teams, a welcome address from the Deputy Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Mr John Brooks, a visit from Yogi Bear and Scooby Doo from Australia's Wonderland and a fireworks display witnessed by a crowd of some 3000.

The tournament progressed to the semi-final stage and finals were completed at the magnificent Parramatta Stadium last Sunday.

NSW Amateur Soc-

cer Federation General Manager Cec Bucello said of the tournament: "I am absolutely ecstatic. This was a great step for soccer development in NSW and the opening ceremony was particularly pleasing. I actually saw tears in people's eyes when we released the pigeons and played the Australian national anthem."

"What pleases me though," he added, "is the fact that we already know that the tournament will be bigger in 1992. Tour organisers have approached me regarding teams from USA, Europe and New Zealand for next year and there has been considerable interest from Australian clubs."

He concluded by saying that "this tournament has been great but it will be bigger and better with each year. I have no doubt that we will achieve the 1000 team target in the very near future."

AROUND THE NATION

Promotion due!

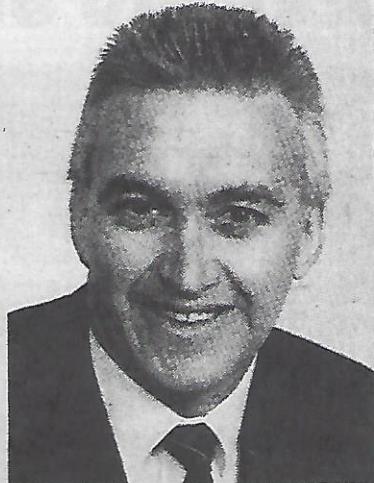
Socceroo coach
Eddie Thomson has earmarked members of the National Youth team as prospective candidates for the squad challenging for a place in the Barcelona Olympic Games.

The Young Socceroos returned last week from Portugal where their fourth place in the World Youth Championships gave Australia its highest ranking in world soccer.

Youth coach Les Scheinflug said Thomson had flown to Portugal to look at the players after completing the Socceroos' tour of Korea.

"Eddie would be looking at the natural progression of players from youth level into the Games' squad to ensure that Australia had its strongest representative," said Scheinflug.

The Australians gained unexpected recognition from many of the world's leading soccer nations for the quality of the football they displayed in Portugal in beating European



EDDIE THOMSON

champions the Soviet Union and African champions Egypt.

"We believed the gold medal was ours and I knew after the first round we would go very close," said Scheinflug.

"The next promotion will be as good as these boys. We may not get another Paul Okon or David Seal. We may get better."

Seal and Okon both

said they were looking forward to winning a place in the Olympic Games team which has already won its three Oceania home games.

"Our next move is to make sure that the Olympic Games team is successful," said Seal, who was Australia's top scorer in Portugal with three goals.

"I was very disappointed at the number of goals I scored and

should have got more.

"During the tour I had approaches from five European countries but plan to spend another 12 months with Marconi and will probably go to Belgium at the end of the next season."

Okon, the Youth team captain, attracted widespread acclaim for his coolness and skill in the Australian backline as sweeper and was rated the best player in the tournament in that position.

"At this stage I look like going to Europe and anything is possible," he said.

"When we went onto the field for our warm-up before the semi-final against Portugal there was already nearly 70,000 people in the stadium who screamed and shouted at us.

"That gave us the motive to relax by the time the game had started."

The Australians lost the semi-final to Portugal 1-0 and Scheinflug has asked the Australian Soccer Federation to invite the Portuguese team, which went on to win the final against Brazil, for a return match in Australia.



AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Appointment of:

NATIONAL COACH

Written applications are called for the above position based on a three year contract.

Initial commitments: selection of women's squad during national championships, 15-21 September, Canberra; training/preparation of squad for Oceania Shield June 1992 and World Cup campaign 1995; other tours/camps as determined; liaison with national junior and youth coaches.

The position is honorary but reasonable expenses together with an annual honorarium are paid by the Association.

For further information:
Dennis O'Brien, President:

(07) 875 5779 (ah)

Closing date July 19 1991

Forward to:

Aust Women's Soccer Assoc.
ACT Sports House, Maitland St
HACKETT ACT 2602

Lions roar

There is something dangerously different about Lions this season — they are stalking the premiership slowly and silently in Brisbane.

Unlike previous seasons when they have raced to the top of the table to fend the challenges and set themselves up as the side to beat, this season Lions have been the hunters rather than the hunted.

A horror start to the season, their worst in 20 years, cuffed the league's most cockiest side and probably spurred a taste for revenge that could lead to some horrific savagings as the season gets serious.

Lions last week drew level with Rochedale at the top of the table after 15 rounds of the competition. A 3-1 clawing of season-long leaders reminded everyone that the Lions were back.

It was a game in which, had Rovers won, they would have emerged hot favourites to take the premiership for the first time in their history. Now few are willing to back against Lions' blue and orange ribbons dangling from the premiership trophy at the

end of round 22.

Lions coach John Sime, who has seen his team thrive as underdogs this season, obviously is reluctant for the cover to be blown. Sime, who two years ago helped Easts' Tigers skulk through the underbrush to win the grand final from fifth position, is keen to keep the Lions in the long grass before their final lunge in September.

"By no means have we arrived," he said after the gnarling of Rochedale. "I'm over the moon with the win. The boys played their hearts out and deserved it, but there is a long way to go."

That may be so, but the path to the grand final is a well worn one for the Lions even if they have chosen a more roundabout way to the top this season.

In the remaining rounds, Lions have only two real tests, against Pine Rivers this weekend and North Star in the final round. But their appetite for victory is likely to be whetted by the blood of lowly Taringa, Nerang and Acacia Ridge who are certain to be tasty entrées to the grand final feast.

Super State

BY GREG BLAKE

UNTIL recently, when the ASF commissioners seemingly successfully shut the door to a dozen clubs aspiring to NSL status, it appeared the days of establishing state super-teams were over.

Throughout the 1980s, any Victorian club which exerted supreme dominance over the rest of the competition for an extended period of time was likely to step up to NSL level.

During the decade six Victorian newcomers achieved NSL status, each of which had been a power in local soccer beforehand.

Both clubs moved into the NSL in 1984.

Since then the one-off champion has become the rule rather than the exception as sides have risen and fallen in quick succession.

Morwell won its first title in 1984 but fell away in its follow-up season.

Croydon City managed two on the trot in



BORIS BECKER

With the gates shut to NSL promotion for up to three years, the time has again arrived when shrewd clubs can dominate, at least locally, for years to come.

And success can mean potential financial goldmines.

All the genuine power teams of the 1960s, 70s and early 80s went on to some degrees of NSL success.

South Melbourne Hellas, the team of the 1960s is now an NSL power.

Brickell Juventus

1985 and 1986 — both won when this state's best seven clubs were on NSL duty — but fell away to 11th when the competition stiffened up in 1987.

1987 champion Polonia sunk without a trace the following year and that club is now safely tucked away in the Victorian second division.

In both 1988 and 1990 Heidelberg won back its NSL stripes by taking the Victorian title, and both times was lost to the local competition.

And Morwell, in 1989, never looked like repeating its best-ever season in the follow-up campaign.

The game is crying out for a new super-power.

There is a lot to be said for parity in the competition, but it is the champions the fans love to see.

Love them or hate them, people have always flocked to see the likes of Phar Lap, Jeff Fenech, Boris Becker or Mike Tyson, or teams like Liverpool, Hawthorn or St George.

The time is right for a new super team in Victorian soccer.

Perhaps Brunswick Juventus will become the new dynasty, after finishing league runner-

up for two successive seasons, Juve has every chance of going one better this season.

Or perhaps George Cross, with the sting of NSL relegation as its spur, will bounce back and dominate the Premier League.

Bulleen and Morwell, with all the trappings of possible NSL clubs, could yet become the clubs of the 1990s.

Whichever club can stamp its mark in the next three years will do its long-term NSL aspirations no harm whatsoever.

Jesus Gil — Atletico Madrid's unorthodox demagogue

"I am not a typical soccer club chairman," said Jesus Gil, the popular boss of Atletico Madrid, in a rare understatement.

"Most of them wouldn't get a job as doorman in this place."

It is safe to say Spain has never known a chairman like Gil. The man who has hauled Atletico out of the shadow of glamourous local rival Real Madrid is now one of the country's most-coveted talk-show guests.

Rumour also has it he was voted the most popular man in Spain, ahead of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, until shocked bureaucrats kept the official opinion poll secret.

To Atletico supporters, he is virtually a soccer demagogue, having presided over the club's rise to second place in Spain's First Division and the defeat of Real in the Spanish Cup.

"If I was in the United States I would be a preacher. I know how to move the masses," he told reporters at a recent lunch, only interrupting his breath-taking monologue to swab a splash of gravy on his impressive paunch and wolf down his food.

In four years as Atletico chairman, Gil has increased club mem-

**Jesus Gil
badmouths
adversaries,
owns yachts,
loathes
referees and
has finally
guided Atletico
Madrid past
rival Real. He
is Spain's most
popular man.**

bership by 10,000 to 30,000, aided by his unorthodox habit of helping to pay Atletico's way from his own pocket, including the purchase of Portuguese captain Paulo Future in 1987.

"I don't differentiate between Atletico and Gil when it comes to paying," said Gil. "You have to bring new players to excite the fans."

Such generosity has secured him huge popularity and something else he enjoys — power.

"When we kicked Real Madrid out of the Spanish Cup, I didn't move a muscle, but I looked at all the fans going crazy and said to myself: 'This is po-

wer,'" he confided.

But he has little time to enjoy his success. Soccer, his businesses, bull-breeding (he wants to stage bullfights in Atletico's Vicente Calderon Stadium), scraping in the press and campaigning to become mayor of jetset Marbella all compete for his attention.

"I have a yacht which has sailed two hours in three years. I'm afraid I might get sea-sick. I have seven farms. I bought another one recently. Journalists tell me it's very nice. I invited them to a cocktail party in a mausoleum I bought, but they don't want to come," he said.

Gil may sound like Groucho Marx at times, but he regards himself as a man with a mission to cleanse Spanish soccer of what he alleges is corruption and incompetence among referees.

"Two out of three referees are biased in favour of Real Madrid," he recently alleged. Last October, he threatened to withdraw the "red and whites" from the league after it was denied a penalty in a 2-1 defeat by Athletic Bilbao.

Declaring "a crusade to change refereeing like that of a banana republic," he called a vote among club members but then told them to vote to stay in the lea-

gue after he was assured officials would study refereeing standards.

Gil has also gained notoriety of his profligacy with coaches. The recent incumbent, Yugoslav Tomislav Iric was the ninth in Gil's four years as chairman. His predecessors were Javier Clemente, Argentine Luis Menotti and Britain's Ron Atkinson and Colin Addison.

"Chuckling out a coach is more economical than keeping on an incompetent," Gil said.

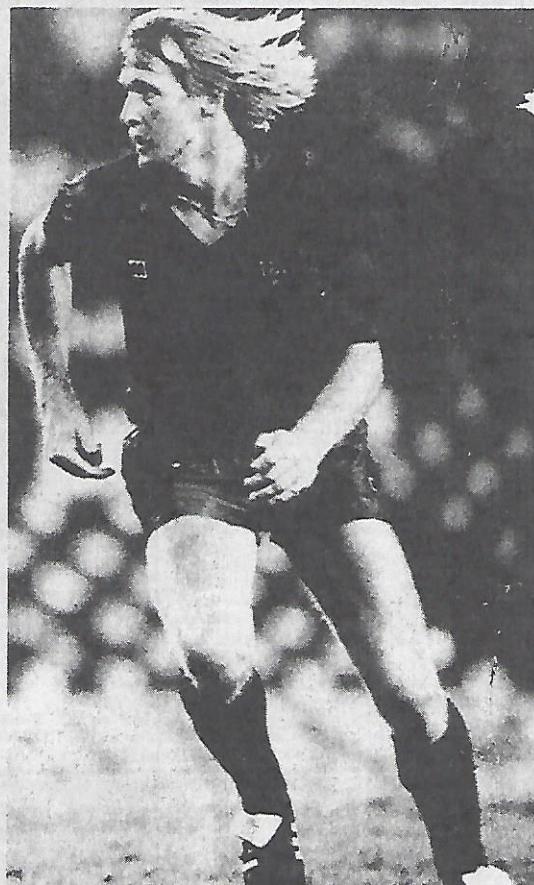
Meanwhile, there is the age-old battle with Real Madrid for the soccer supremacy of the capital.

Gil's verbal artillery locks in on Real chairman Ramon Mendoza, who recently resigned to seek re-election and deflect the blame for his club's disastrous performance this season.

"It's in my interests for Mendoza to remain

... If he goes they might put someone half-intelligent in charge," said Gil, who snapped up midfielder Bernd Schuster when Real released him last year and watched the German guide his new team to success.

"Before, Real Madrid was always the leader and we were in their shadow. Now it is in the shadow and we will be the leader for the next five years."



Although noted for his atypical behaviour, Atletico Madrid boss Jesus Gil has made shrewd moves such as acquiring Bernd Schuster (above).

Eric's Sheffield jaunt

WHEN former Australian Soccer Federation Director of Coaching Eric Worthington last saw his home city of Sheffield, England, he had a nasty shock.

"It was in 1946 and it had been flattened by war time bombing," he said. "I had last been there just before the war in 1939 and there was nothing left to remember — all the familiar landmarks, the places where I grew up — gone."

This week, after a break of 45 years, he expects to get more surprises — this time pleasant ones — when he returns to the Yorkshire City as coach of the Australian Universities team playing in the World Student Games.

"I've been told everything has been rebuilt and that it is now a very beautiful city," he said. "It will be interesting to



KIM TALIADOROS

compare it with my youth when you often couldn't see the sun through the industrial grime."

Not that Worthington will have much time for sight-seeing until after the Games are over. The first task for the 16-strong squad when it left the country last Saturday was introductions — "there is no money for things like training camps," he said sadly.

"I've been in touch with each member individually and told them to get as much soccer as possible," he said. "I would rather have a player who is match-sharp than one who can break records running round the oval."

The team has already suffered through the withdrawal of two of its leading players: Sydney Croatia's Tony Krslovic has broken a bone in his foot, while Michael Michalakopoulos (South Melbourne) has had to make a visit to Greece for

family reasons.

Coming into the squad are Giovanni Caniglia from Essendon City who has played in Italy for Abruzzi, and Anthony George (Croydon) an under-16 NSW representative who has had experience with St George, Canterbury and Sydney Croatia.

The latest blow is the dislocated shoulder suffered by Canberra Metro goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca, but with physiotherapist and fellow squad member Andrew Young working on the injury, there are hopes he will be fit in time for the first tournament match if not the warm-up games.

Worthington, who played a major role in leading Australian soccer into the modern era as the ASF's long-time coaching director, has been retired for two years. He admits he is excited at his temporary re-

turn to active duty. "It appears to be a well-balanced side, but I will know a lot more when I see them play together for the first time," he says.

That will probably be on a full-sized pitch at Sheffield's indoor Aurora Stadium tonight when the Australians take on a selection of players drawn from local Football League clubs Sheffield Wednesday and United. The game will be part of the opening ceremony for the complex.

This is followed by a match against the full Kuwait national team on Thursday before the tournament proper begins against Holland at nearby Chesterfield on Saturday.

Two days later Australia plays South Korea at the ground of non-league Stocksbridge followed by Algeria at Bradford City on the 17th.

The quarter-finals are on the 19th, the semi-finals on the 21st and the final on the 24th. The Australian squad is: Andrew Young (Sydney University), Bryan Cokely (Wollongong University), Craig Sharpley (Australian Catholic University), Kimon Taliadoros (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology), Vic Fernandez, Peter Mazis (University of Canberra), Anthony Giannasca (Australian National University), Craig Moffit, Declan McEvoy, Jonathon Pillemer, Russell Pillemer (University of NSW), Stuart Hoy (Macquarie University), Paul Trimboli (Monash University), Stephen Starr (James Cook University), Giovanni Caniglia (Melbourne University), Anthony George (University of Western Sydney). Coach, Eric Worthington. Manager, Paul FitzPatrick.



ITALY

WITH
TONY PALUMBO



Juventus had a disastrous tour of North America at the end of the season. They played three matches without winning one and without scoring a single goal. Hungarian Detari played for Juventus as guest player, but he will stay next season. Juventus' three foreign players are going to be Julio Cesar, Koehler and Reuter.

★★★

Francesco Baiano led Foggia to promotion to First Division by scoring 22 goals. He is only 23, but Maradona had predicted a great career for him when he made his First Division debut at Napoli at the age of seventeen. After a few years in Second Division, Baiano now looks as if he is going to prove Maradona right.

★★★

Antonio Cabrini is the new general manager at Bologna. The former Juventus fullback had announced his retirement two months ago. But the new bosses at Bologna have immediately offered him the job. He will team up with Maifredi to take Bologna straight back to First Division maybe.

★★★

Massimo Brambati, the Bari defender seldom makes the headlines as a soccer player. He has found a novel way to

become a household name. In a television interview he has stated that most Italian players are spoiled brats who can only talk about cars and women. His statement has created a furore among fellow players. Somebody has reminded Brambati of Gianni Rivera, who is now a member of Parliament, and of Dossena, the Sampdoria midfielder about to get a degree in Economics.

★★★

One of the greatest scandals in Italian soccer involves Baroni, the Napoli defender, Roggi, the Fiorentina general manager, and Mario Cecchi Gori, the Fiorentina president. Cecchi Gori wants to take Roggi to court, claiming he has conned him. Roggi signed a contract for the purchase of Baroni from Napoli for \$11 million. But Cecchi Gori has subsequently found out that the player could have been signed for half that amount. The price doubled after a meeting between Roggi, Baroni and the Napoli manager, Perinetti. Roggi, meanwhile, has conveniently 'resigned'.

★★★

Contracts are made to be broken. This is, at least, the new fashion in Italian soccer. Trapattoni breached his con-

tract with Inter to go to Juventus; Sacchi breached his with AC Milan to go and coach the national team; Petrucci left the federation, where he was Secretary, to accept \$500,000 a year from AS Roma; Inter want to breach their contract with

ANTONIO CABRINI AND CLAUDIO GENTILE

Brehme so they can sign Sammer.

★★★

Soccer in Milan will not be the same next season with both clubs taking a big gamble in their choice of coaches. Sacchi will be replaced by Fabio Capello who has not

coached a team for the last four years. Trapattoni's place goes to Orrico who, at age 50, was still coaching in Third Division just twelve months ago. According to Italian pundits, Orrico will probably end up at Inter the way Maifredi did at Juventus.

★★★

Torino's president, Gian Mauro Borsano, is involved in a bankruptcy case worth \$70 million. This has contributed to rumours that Borsano might have to sell his Torino shares to survive. But Borsano

has hotly denied any troubles and announced the building of new multi-million dollar headquarters for Torino.

★★★

Still at Torino. They have won the Italian National title at junior level, defeating Roma 4-2 on aggregate. Their coach? None other than Rosario Rampanti, the former midfielder who had a brief, and disastrous, stint with Apia.

★★★

Seventy-four per cent of the Milan supporters think that Sacchi's departure will have a great influence on their future. This is the result of an opinion poll conducted by the weekly magazine *Guerin Sportivo*. However, 81 per cent of supporters also think that Fabio Capello is the right choice as his successor. The same survey shows that having to choose between van Basten and Sacchi sixty-three per cent of supporters would have preferred to let van Basten go.

★★★

Twelve coaches out of eighteen in Italy's First Division have been confirmed for next season. Clubs with new coaches are Cagliari (Giacomini), Ascoli (De Sisti), Inter (Orrico), Juventus (Trapattoni), Milan (Capello), Napoli (Ranieri).

SOUTH AMERICA with Mario Etchart



New star Diego Latorre.

The Copa America is in full swing, with Argentina, Brazil, host nation Chile and Colombia emerging as strong favourites to win the major South American title at national team level.

Alfonso Basile, the Argentine national coach, selected only four players from the last World Cup campaign: goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, defenders Oscar Ruggeri and Fabian Balsallido and striker Claudio Caniggia.

★★★

Meanwhile, Uruguayan national coach, Luis Cubilla has named the following squad for the South American championship:

• Goalkeepers: F. Alvarez and Rocco.

• Defenders: Sanginetti, Do Santos, Pintos Saldanha, Rodriguez, Sanchez, Revelez and Moas.

• Midfielders: R. Pereira, A. Gutierrez, Moran, H. Lopez Baez, Borges and Cedres.

• Strikers: S. Martinez, Gutierrez, Mendez, Lopez, Fracchia and Castro.

★★★

Ex-Bolivian international Ramiro Blacutt, the new coach of Bolivia, named a squad with an average age of 23 for the Copa America which hasn't impressed the critics and Bolivian fans during its build-up preparation.

But the coach is optimistic about Bolivia's chances and expects a good showing from his

team. Saldanha and Daniel Revelez, midfielder Ruben Pereira and striker Sergio Martinez went to Italy as members of ex-coach Oscar Tavarez's World Cup squad last year.

The strength of the Bolivian side is in midfield with experienced and skilful players like veteran Carlos Borja, Milton Melgar, Ramiro Castillo and Erwin "Platini" Sanchez.

The 22 Bolivian players for the Copa America are: Aragon, Ardaya, Barrero, Borja, Castillo, Chavez, Etchegoyen, Terrufino, Siguchi, Medrano, Melgar, Molina, Moreno, Pena, Rimbala, Rivero, Saldias, Sanchez, Soria and Suarez.

The youngest player is Juan Chavez, 18, and the oldest is midfielder

Carlos Borja, 33. Bolivia is in group "B" with Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.

★★★

Vicente Cantatore, ex-coach of Spanish club Seville, will be at the helm of glamour Chilean club Universidad Catolica for three years.

By the way, Universidad Catolica is one of the Chilean clubs interested in touring Australia as long as there is a formal invitation from the Australian Soccer Federation.

★★★

Argentina and Brazil drew 1-1 in a friendly international played in Curitiba.

The match was the last build-up preparation before the Copa America, currently underway.

Claudio Caniggia scored for Argentina, while Neto equalised for Brazil through a very doubtful penalty.

★★★

In another friendly

international before the start of the Copa America, Ecuador and Peru drew 2-2 in Guayaquil. Nixon Carcelen and Carlos Munoz scored for Ecuador in the second and 32 minutes respectively.

Jorge Hirano in the 55th and Cesar Rodriguez in the 69th converted for the Peruvians.

★★★

In Uruguay, Nacional, with hat trick from Panamanian striker Julio Dely Valdez, defeated Huracan Buceo 4-1 and remained at the top of the table, closely followed by Central Espanol.

The second placed side beat newly promoted El Tanque Syssley 1-0. Penarol, without reaching its best form, also beat Rentistas by the same score.

Nacional leads with 15 points, followed by Central Espanol with 14, Defensor Sporting and Bella Vista with 13, and Danubio, Liverpool, Penarol and Huracan Buceo with 11.

The Uruguayan league is in recess until August 31.

★★★

Boca Juniors defeated Platense 3-0 in the last match of the Argentine league and 45,000 fans at La Bombonera Stadium celebrated the championship.

A big Boca Juniors flag, flung by Diego Maradona, was on display at the stadium.

Maradona played his last match for the popular Argentine club in 1981, when Boca won its last Argentine league title.

Boca Juniors, winner of the second phase of the National League, will now meet Newell's Old Boys, winner of the opening tournament, to decide the 1991 Argentine championship.

Boca finished the second phase undefeated with 13 wins and six draws. They also scored 32 goals, with an average of 1.6 per game.

Boca striker, Gabriel Batistuta, was the highest scorer of the competition.

Runner-up, San Lorenzo, drew with Newell's 1-1 and finished five points behind the champions.

SOVIET GOALIE CRASH

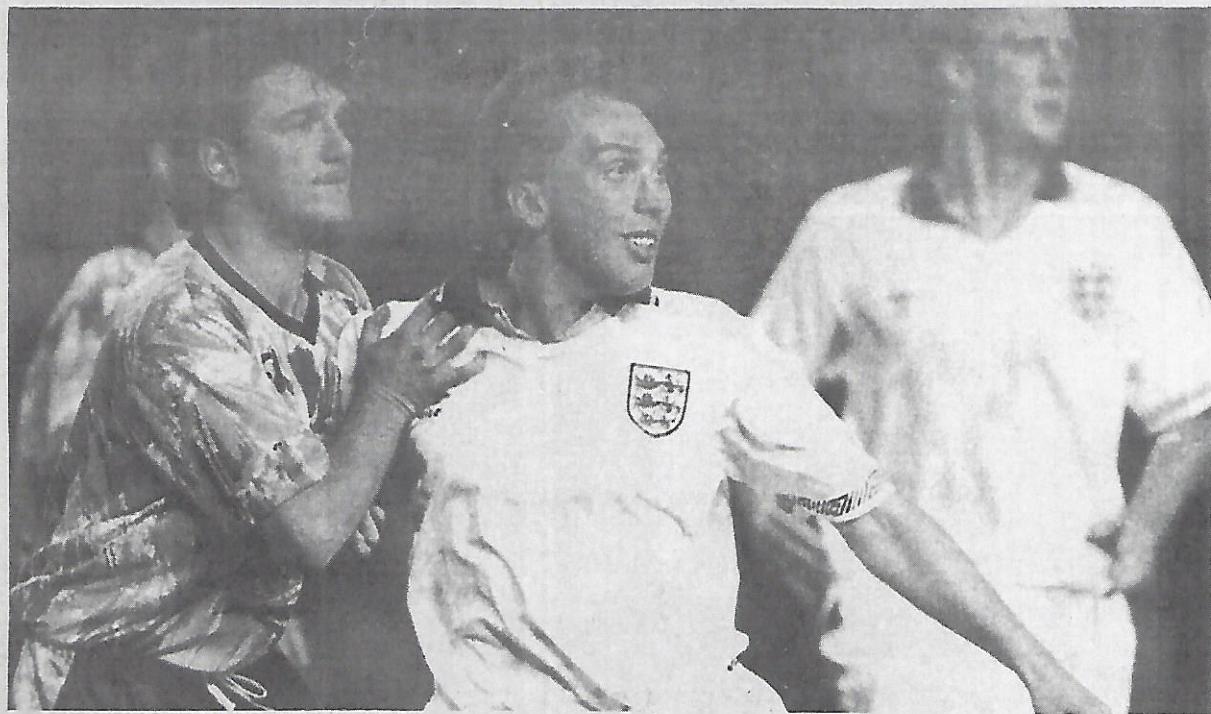
Mikhail Yeremin, goalkeeper for Soviet league leaders CSKA, was badly injured in a car crash just hours after helping his side win the Soviet Cup final.

Yeremin is in hospital in a very serious condition with an eye injury.

Yeremin's brother, who was driving the car, died instantly when the vehicle collided with a bus in a town of Zelenograd, 30km north-west of Moscow.

CSKA are seven points clear at the top of the USSR First Division.

They beat Torpedo Moscow 3-2 in the Soviet Cup final.



VENGLOS OFF TO TURKEY!

Joe Venglos is the new coach of glamour Turkish club Fenerbahce.

and Besiktas last season, are going all out to regain top spot in Turkish soccer next season.



JOE VENGLOS

The former coach of the Czechoslovakian national team, after a one-year stint with Aston Villa, brought country man Jozef Chovanec from PSV with him.

Venglos, who spent three years in Australia in the late 1960s, will also have Turkey's best team.

Tanju Colak has moved from Galatasaray to Fenerbahce, who have also purchased Steaua Bucharest's Romanian international defenders Daniel Petrescu and Ilie Stan.

Fenerbahce, who lived in the shadow of arch-rivals Galatasaray

Colo Colo skipper Jaime Pizarro in action in the Copa Libertadores final against Olimpia. Pizarro is a key member of Chile's team in the Copa America now under way.



This action photograph of Mehmet Durakovic and David Platt during the recent Australia-England game appeared in the mass-circulation 'France Football' over an entire page — in colour.

Brondby Sale

BRONDBY striker Bent Christensen, top scorer in the Danish soccer league for the last two seasons, has signed a two-year contract with Germany's Schalke.

The club, who finished top of the new Danish super league last week, will \$3 million of the transfer fee.

Brondby did not reveal the total transfer fee, but said in a statement it would go to an unidentified Swiss financier under an agreement reached when Christensen, 23, moved to Brondby from the Geneva club Servette.



Club secretary Emil Bakkehoff said they were still negotiating with Manchester United over the possible transfer of keeper Peter Schmeichel.

Schmeichel, a 27-year-

old national team veteran, is under contract with Brondby until the end of the year, but Manchester are thought to want him before the start of the English soccer season in August.

Bakkehoff also said Lars Olsen, midfielder and captain of the Danish team, is due to fly to Turkey in the next few days for talks with a leading club there, and will sign a contract if the talks are successful.



Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



► Wim van Hanegem, one of the best-ever Dutch players, is back in the game after six years of inactivity. The former Feyenoord midfielder will be on the coaching staff of Utrecht next season.

► Newly-promoted Italian side Verona are interested in Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Ulf Kirsten and have offered \$4.5 million for him.

► Argentine World Cup star Gabriel Calderon has renewed his contract with FC Sion for two more years despite a big bid from Lugano. Calderon moved to Switzerland from Paris St Germain after Italia '90.

► Real Madrid will prepare for the Spanish season in camp in Italy, in Udine, at the Green Riviera Hotel, which was the headquarters of the Spanish World Cup squad last year.

► Olaf Thon is another German star apparently headed for Italy. The Bayern Munich German international midfielder may join Frank Farina at Bari, who have offered him a signing-on fee of \$1 million.

► The recently concluded Copa Libertadores was no windfall for beaten semi-finalists Atletico Nacional, of Medellin. Because of FIFA's ban on playing any internationals in Colombia, Nacional had to play their home games in the USA or in Venezuela, and in the process claim to have lost \$200,000 this past season.

► Sevilla have sacked their Chilean coach, Vicente Cantatore, who is likely to manage a team in Mexico later this year.

► Another Belgian will coach abroad next season with the news that Philippe Garot is taking over Omonia Nicosia of Cyprus. Urbain Braems has resigned with Turkey's Trabzonspor and Jean Thieszen has succeeded Frenchman Gilbert Gress at Servette Geneva (Switzerland).

► Readers of the mass-circulation sports daily, *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, have voted Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini as 1990/91 Italian Player of the Year.

► Portuguese international midfielder Hernani has signed a new two-year contract with Benfica, said to be worth \$900,000 a year to the brilliant playmaker.

► Johan Neeskens, the former great Dutch midfielder of the 1970s, is to coach in Switzerland next season. He will be at the helm of newly crowned champions Grasshoppers Zurich.

► Turkish club Hayrettin will have a new goalkeeper next season. They have signed Dinamo Zagreb's Dragan Ladic.

► Argentinian international striker Marcelo Trobbiani has ended his two-year stint with Barcelona of Ecuador, the beaten 1990 Copa Libertadores finalists, to return to Buenos Aires. He may join Sarsfield Velez.

► Galatasaray, vice-champions of Turkey, have purchased Dutch striker Frank Bergius from Volendam. The 28-year-old played for Holland when he was a PSV player.

TAPIE WILL KEEP TRYING FOR GLORY



ERIC CANTONA: the French international striker is one of the players Bernard Tapie sold during the off season — to newly-promoted Nimes.

By reaching this year's European Champions' Cup final and despite losing a match they dominated to Red Star Belgrade in a cruel penalty shoot-out, France's Marseille confirmed they are now amongst the very top echelon of football clubs in the world.

They provide the sleazy port of Marseille with a heartbeat that everyone shares.

Any fan there will tell you that Marseille were put at the top by their president, Bernard Tapie.

Like his lame compatriots, Tapie turned Marseille around.

The club were heavily in debt when Gaston Diderfert, socialist mayor of Marseille for 33 years, invited Tapie to take control in 1986.

Since then, Marseille have risen from the Second Division, made three European semi-final appearances, reached this season's Champion's Cup final, and won a third French championship on the trot.

Tapie brought in sponsors, film stars, TV money, fireworks and video screens.

He turned simple football match into a star production for the hard core 35,000 fans.

His bulging wallet bought Tottenham's Chris Waddle for \$9 million.

The figure astonished British football and Arsenal supporters in particular.

Waddle's brilliant performances since have proved a point, although England manager Graham Taylor

obviously does not think so.

Two years after buying Marseille, socialist Tapie was elected as one of the city's three deputies.

He was eased into place by the now deceased Deferre and Francois Mitterrand, and his association with Marseille proved useful as he set out to quash the fascist National Front threat.

His political shrewdness and reputation for giant killing are admitted by the president, Mitterrand.

Tapie achieved hero status in December 1989 when he became the first politician to crush National Front leader Le Pen in a televised debate, with a barrage of statistics and rigorous argument.

Months later he said he would campaign in 400 "hot spots" where Le Pen's support was greatest.

His overall aim is to cut the National Front's support from 15 per cent to 10.

Tapie is not everyone's friend.

He clashed with the French Federation this year and was barred from exercising his office of Marseille president by the National Disciplinary Commission for a year, with

four months suspended.

This followed accusations made against him by Claude Bez, outgoing president of great rivals Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia).

Bez, friendly with his own local council (led by the Right) which gave Bordeaux cash and financial guarantees, had led the club into a hole filled with \$66 million debts.

Tapie was more successful, and Bez was eventually ousted.

Bez accused Tapie of rigging matches, intimidating referees and under-the-counter payments to players.

The federation spent a year deliberating before fining Bez \$12,000 for making "unfounded accusations" and then suspending Tapie for apparent mistreatment of two referees.

That left Marseille in uproar.

Demonstrations followed, bigger than those for peace in the Gulf. Tapie's players said they would strike.

All league games and a European quarter-final with Milan would be boycotted and more drastically, seven of Marseille's players would refuse to play for France against Spain in a European Champion-

ship qualifier.

Everything eventually blew over but Tapie's approval rating in Marseille hit 70 per cent and nearly half of French voters said they would go for him as president.

His takeover of Adidas, one of the world's most famous sportswear companies, on the weekend West Germany won the World Cup, meant a lot to the French.

It was considered a political statement and an expression of national revenge after West Germany's defeat of France in the semi-finals of the 1982 and 1986 world Cups.

Tapie bought Adidas very much on the cheap. The price was not made public but he is believed to have paid \$580 million for a company with a consolidated annual turnover of \$4 billion.

For Tapie it was another step along a high-profile road of power and glory.

Bari or no Bari, the man is a winner!

STOP PRESS: Tapie last week signed himself a new coach. Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic is the new boss of Marseille. Ivic, a former Paris St-Germain coach, coached Atletico Madrid last season.

FRENCH CLUBS DEMOTED

FRENCH First Division clubs Nice and Brest have been relegated to the Second Division because of excessive debts.

The decision to demote the two financially troubled clubs, announced by an independent body set up to control the administration of the nation's professional soccer teams, meant three of the First Division's 20 sides have now been compulsorily relegated.

EURO CUP SEEDS

Clubs will again be seeded in the three European Cups when the draw for the Champions', the Cup-Winners' and UEFA Cups are made in Geneva, Switzerland on Thursday.

The top eight seeds cannot meet in the first two rounds.

They are, in the Champions' Cup, in order of seeding: Marseille (France), IFK Goteborg (Sweden), Sampdoria (Italy), Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Benfica (Portugal), Barcelona (Spain), Anderlecht (Belgium), and Dynamo Kiev (USSR).

In the Cup-Winners' Cup: Manchester United, FC Brugge (Belgium), Porto (Portugal), AS Roma (Italy), Werder Bremen (Germany), Monaco (France), FC Sion (Switzerland), Galatasaray (Turkey).

In the UEFA Cup: Mechelen (Belgium), Bayern Munich (Germany), Ajax (Holland), Real Madrid (Spain), Torino (Italy), Torpedo Moscow (USSR), Inter Milan (Italy), Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany).

The teams every one of the seeds will want to avoid in the first round of the C1 will be English champions Arsenal, who are not seeded because this is their first appearance in Europe since 1982.

Tottenham will be the big unseeded danger in the Cup-Winners' Cup and the draw could well come up with a sensational Manchester United-Spurs in Round One!

In the UEFA Cup, where 64 and not 32 clubs are competing, Liverpool is the big danger.

They also could not be seeded as they have not been in Europe since the Heysel Stadium tragedy in May 1985.

Watch next week's ABSW for the full draw in the three European Cups.

Bordeaux were also condemned to the lower flight earlier, a decision the southwestern club is contesting through the civil courts, after going into official receivership in February.

Nice have debts of around \$14 million and Brest have a deficit of about \$11 million.

Both teams had already been banned from recruiting new players because of their precarious financial situation, along with Toulon and Nancy.

A similar ban on Toulouse was lifted.

French Football Federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard welcomed the demotion of Nice and Brest.

"These decisions are a step towards cleaning up French soccer", he said.

Claude Bez has been charged with fraud.

Both Brest and Nice are in danger of folding completely as a result of the latest move.

Brest's main backer, industrialist Charly Chaker, who has put up \$6 million to try to save the club, blamed the city council for failing to guarantee a further \$5 million loan.

"If the municipal authorities do not change their decision, this will purely and simply mean the death of Brest football club," he said.

Both clubs said they would appeal against the decision, a move which would almost certainly force the French League to put back the scheduled start of next season from July 20.



Brest's Didier Desvergne: demoted!

The nation's soccer clubs have been hit by a succession of financial scandals over the past year, the worst at Bordeaux where \$66 million are owned and where former president

The French League has already been unable to publish a fixture list because of Bordeaux's legal struggle against relegation, which is expected to continue through the courts well into July.

World Cup draw on December 8

THE organising committee for the 1994 World Cup said that the qualifying draw would be held on December 8 in New York.

The draw ceremony divides the expected 120 nations entering the World Cup into qualifying groups by continent. Previously, the qualifying draw had been held in Switzerland, where FIFA is headquartered.

Qualification will reduce the field to the 22 teams, and the host United States and defending champion Germany.

The format calls for 12 teams plus Germany from Europe, three from Africa, two from Asia, three from South

America, and two, including the United States, from North, Central and Caribbean America.

The 24th team will be drawn from a playoff involving nations from Oceania, South America and the North, Central and Caribbean American zones.

Before last year's World Cup in Italy, 112 nations played 300 qualification matches.

The 24 finalists will play 52 games to determine the world champion.

THE BOW-LEGGED GENIUS

JAN WOUTERS held his trophy and said what all players say on this particular occasion: "It's a prize that means a lot to me."

"After all, it's awarded by your colleagues, and you expect them to know about football."

Ajax midfielder Wouters had just been voted Holland's Players' Player of the Year and he was visibly touched.

distribution is faultless.

He and Frank Rijkaard are the only Dutch internationals to play with consistency over the past three years.

Wouters does not look like a star.

His main feature, bandy legs, appear too de-

ters for an international against France, but Wouters played disastrously for 20 minutes.

Rijvers was ridiculed, and that was the end of that.

Not until 1986 did things change for Wouters. Holland had failed



Soft shoe... Sandel of Sparta Rotterdam challenges Jan Wouters.

formed to belong to a professional athlete.

When Wouters was young, a doctor suggested that his legs be broken so that they could grow straight.

The boy's father rejected this gruesome idea, and Wouters' peculiar appearance meant that some years passed before his talents were discovered.

Until he was 26, Wouters played mid-table football with FC Utrecht.

With Gert Kruys and Frans Adelaar, he formed a midfield the press enjoyed calling the best in Holland, but recognition never became more tangible than that.

True, in 1982, Kees Rijvers selected Wou-

ters to qualify for the World Cup in Mexico. Michels

was trying to build a new team, and Wouters grabbed his last chance to make something out of his career.

He played well in a couple of friendly internationals, and Johan Cruyff took him to Ajax although others were sceptical.

Marco van Basten, then Ajax captain, said: "With respect, Wouters is not going to bring us back to the European top."

Wim van Hanegem, an old rival of Cruyff's was equally damning: "Wouters — dull name, dull player."

But a year later, van Basten and Wouters were waving the Cup —

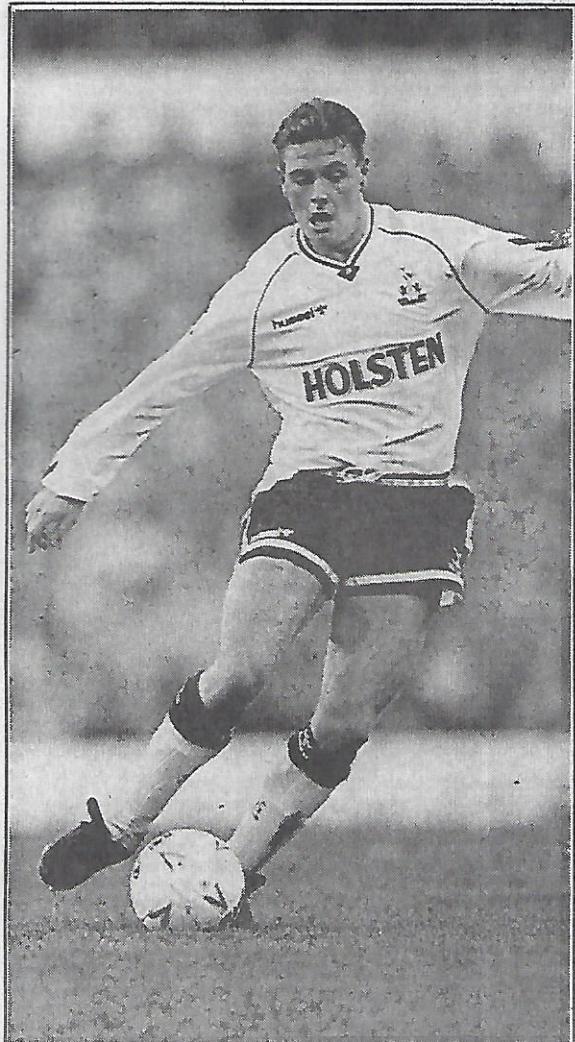


...the Cup.



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

Gazza off to Italy



PAUL GASCOIGNE



PAUL GASCOIGNE will be a Lazio player within 72 hours.

Spurs have backed off in the £4.8m game of bluff over the midfield star.

Lazio officials are expected back in London on Tuesday to wrap up the deal, which was worth £7.7m until Gazza damaged knee ligaments in the FA Cup final.

Two weeks ago, the new Terry Venables, Alan Sugar regime flexed its muscles, demanding more cash for Gascoigne, even though he is unlikely to kick a ball before Christmas.

The Italians left in a huff but knowing they had no rivals and that Spurs — £23m in debt — were in no financial position to demand anything.

Wages

Now Sugar has called Lazio back to the table, shortly after announcing the club made a £2m loss up to last December.

And this time patient Lazio president Gianmario Calleri will get his man and present him in Rome on July 24.

The £4.8m is already deposited on hold for Spurs, but they will only get the interest on it if Gazza is passed 100 per cent fit by a medical panel next May. If not, Lazio will take the money and £500,000 interest.

But they will pay Gazza's Spurs wages this season and lucrative friendlies in Rome and at White Hart Lane are scheduled for 1992-93.

Atko goes for 'Dale ace Welch

RON ATKINSON has moved for Rochdale keeper Keith Welch.

■ The busy Aston Villa boss, having already snapped up strikers Dalian Atkinson and Cyrille Regis, wants Welch as cover for Nigel Spink.

Big Ron has lost his No 2 keeper, Lee Butler, to Barnsley.

■ Rochdale want £250,000 for 22-year-

old Welch, who is also a target for Bristol City and Hull.

Help

Meanwhile, Rochdale's one-man band boss Dave Sutton is to get help this week.

■ Sutton, boss, coach, physio and jack-of-all-trades last season — will appoint Tommy Docherty's son Mick as his assistant and former Burnley player Jimmy Robson as youth development officer.

■ Burnley centre-half Steve Davis, who has turned down a new contract, is wanted by Wolves.

Ambitious Blackburn Rovers are ready to pay out another £300,000 — for Bury winger David Lee.

Police to quiz City over £1m Allen deal



CLIVE ALLEN

MANCHESTER CITY are to be quizzed by French police over the signing of £1 million striker Clive Allen.

And the French fraud cops also plan to hold talks with Spurs, Manchester United, Everton and Dunfermline over their dealings with bankrupt Bordeax.

City swooped to capture Allen from Bordeaux two years ago and it's a deal the French police are particularly keen to investigate.

They also want to interview United officials about the £400,000 sale of Jesper Olsen to Bordeaux.

Dunfermline player George O'Boyle, who was previously at Bordeaux, is also to be involved.

Questions are also to be asked about a centenary soccer friendly between Bordeaux and Everton.

Scotland Yard's fraud squad have agreed to assist the French police in their inquiries.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We may become involved should any evidence be forwarded to us."

"At this stage we are merely assisting but certainly, what we have been told so far is of interest to us."

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KICK OFF THE SEASON 91/92

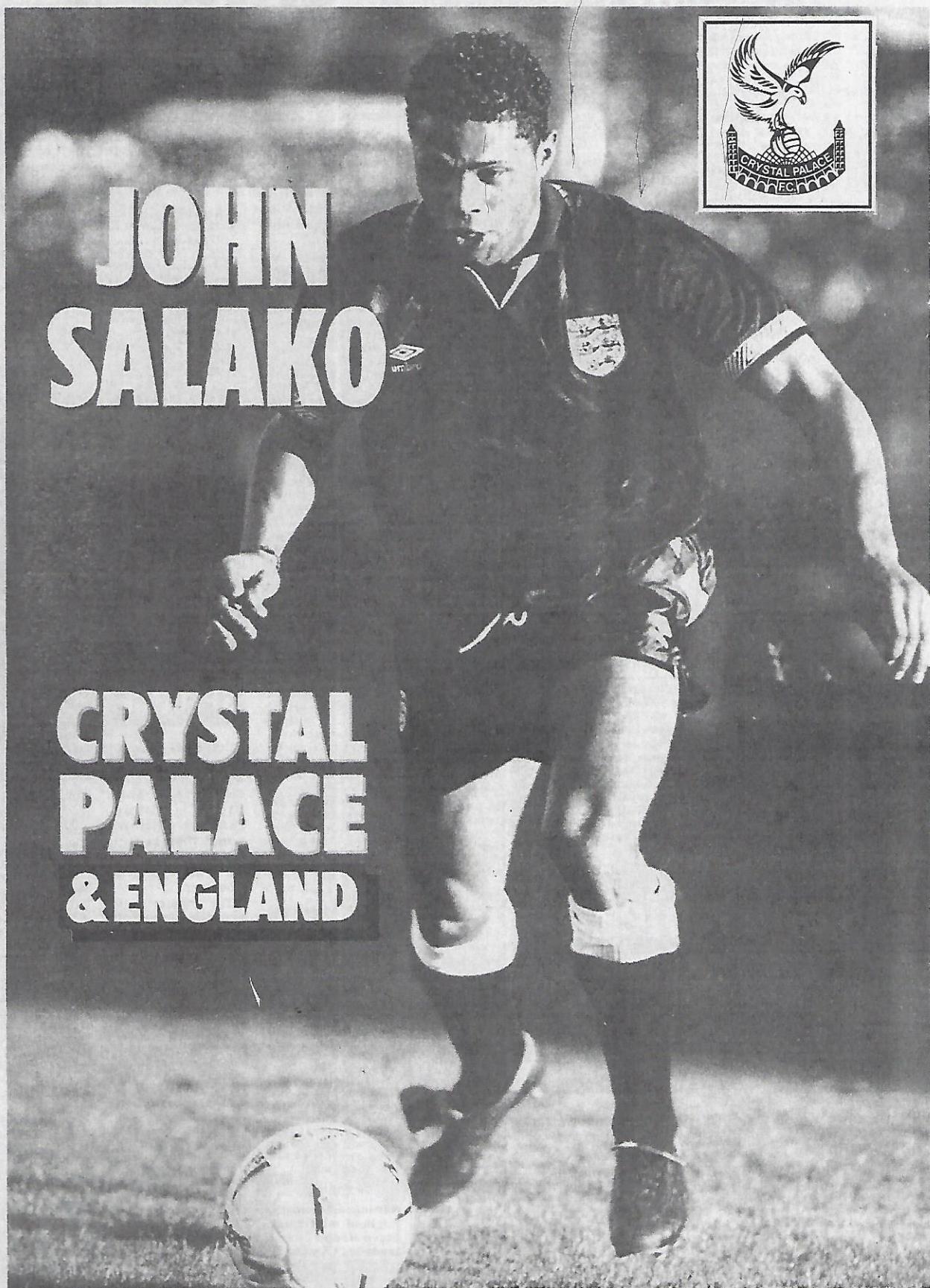
Rothmans Football Yearbook 1991/92	\$40.00
Barclays League Club Directory 1992	\$37.50
Football League Yearbook 1992	\$35.00
Football Association Yearbook 1991/92	\$16.99
Playfair Football Annual 1991/92	\$12.99
Playfair Football Non League Annual 1991/92	14.99
F.A. Vauxhall Non League Club Directory 1992	\$37.50
Guinness Soccer Who's Who 5th Ed. 1992	\$19.95
Supporters Guide to Football League Clubs 1992	\$16.00

To secure your copy of your favourite annual by air from England, in time for the season call or phone your order now.

★★★ STAR OF THE WEEK ★★★

JOHN
SALAKO

CRYSTAL
PALACE
& ENGLAND





Clarkson over the moon about his Pom success

WITH some justification, David Clarkson is "over the moon".

"Clarky", the bubbly Sunshine George Cross midfielder, is off to seek his fortune in the UK with English second division outfit Brighton and Hove Albion.

After a two-week spell in Queensland to visit his parents, the 23-year-old will be the next of a lengthening line of talented Aussies to move into professional ranks.

And Clarkson is chaffing at the bit to get into the action.

"It's the big break for me", he said on the eve of his big move.

"I've got a 12 month contract with an option and I can tell you now that I'll be making the most of my chance".

Clarkson, whose Australian career has seen him play senior football in three different states, went to the Goldstone Ground late in the 1990-91 season and, despite carrying the after-effects of a serious knee injury suffered when playing for Sunshine, impressed manager Barry Lloyd enough to want the Aussie on board when the club starts its 1991-92 campaign.

Clarkson has already played nine reserve matches for Brighton with his first, against Fulham, coming just two days after he flew into England.

At this stage, his full transfer has not been settled.

Sunshine and Brighton have agreed to a

\$96,000 transfer fee but SGC spokesman Alf Zahra has said that the player has not been cleared "at this stage".

"We are hoping to have the details cleared up very soon", Zahra told ABSW.

He refused to discuss details of the hold-up, saying only that there was "nothing firm" as yet.

"I haven't really heard anything about it", Clarkson says about the hold-up.

"They (Brighton) aren't going to rush it.

"After all, they've just finished playing for the season".

The Aussie's transfer came about thanks to the persistence of Clarkson's manager, whom he met when on trial with Newcastle United in 1988.

His manager, the same man who took Brazilian Mirandinha to St James Park, had kept a number of British clubs informed of Clarkson's progress since that time.

After seeing a recent video of Clarkson in action, Brighton manager Lloyd immediately summoned the talented blond to the Goldstone Ground.

"They really made me feel welcome there", Clarkson explained.

"I didn't feel like I was going there on trial, I felt I was going there as a player".

Clarkson, although disappointed that the club failed at the final promotion hurdle last season, believes his chance to break into senior football might be



FORMER NEWCASTLE UNITED STAR MIRANDINHA

made easier in the second division.

"I was speaking to my agent the other night and he said that there were quite a few players on the transfer list, so I may get my chance", he said.

"And playing in the second division might be better for me to start with".

Clarkson will return to Australia in August to marry sweetheart Debbie and the pair will then fly together to the UK for what he hopes will be a long and rewarding stay.

And the parting shot from a player virtually ignored by the national coaching hierarchy as he embarks on a professional career?

"I'd love to play for Australia and if he (national coach Eddie Thomson) gave me a call, I'd be more than happy to talk to him".

Maradona's plea

DIEGO Maradona's defence lawyer told a Naples court last week that, in a bid to reduce his sentence, Maradona would plead guilty to charges he used and supplied cocaine.

Judges postponed Maradona's trial until September 18, when the disgraced Argentine is expected to be well enough to appear in court.

"I cannot defend Maradona adequately if he is unable to attend his trial."

"He wants to come here to plead guilty and obtain a reduced sentence."

"ence," his lawyer Vincenzo Siniscalchi told the court.

The former Napoli and Argentina World Cup captain has been undergoing medical and psychological treatment in his homeland since late April.

He must appear in person to plead guilty.

Maradona, 30, was charged following a police investigation into a drugs and prostitution ring in Naples.

He was questioned by public prosecutor Luigi Bobbio on March 31 and flew home to Argentina on April 2.

He has been banned from soccer for 15 months for doping.

On April 26, Maradona was arrested in a drugs raid on a suburban Buenos Aires flat.

He was released on \$26,300 bail after spending two days in jail.

Two men, Felice Pizzia and Giuseppe Suardo, arrested in Italy on the same drugs charges as Maradona and also accused of pandering prostitutes, pleaded guilty at the hearing.

They were given a reduced prison term of 16 months and fined \$2,600 each.

Had they pleaded not guilty, the sentence could have been three times longer.

Penalties will be used to settle drawn replays in the Cup, a competition which dates back to 1872.

Up to now, drawn games were repeatedly replayed until a winner emerged.

It had to come

THE English Football Association Cup, the oldest club soccer competition in the world, will feature penalty shoot-outs for the first time next season.

Penalties will be used to settle drawn replays in the Cup, a competition which dates back to 1872.

Up to now, drawn games were repeatedly replayed until a winner emerged.

ABSW

Sport

WORLD CLASS FOR SOCCER

MILLWALL striker
Teddy Sheringham
is ready to leave the
Den in search of
English First Division
football next season.

Sheringham, 25, was leading scorer in the English League last season with 38 goals and has always made it clear he wants to play in the top flight.

He has rejected a new two-year contract with the Second Division side, paid a club record Stg600,000 (\$A1.2 million) and confessed: "I never wanted to sell him in the first place. I'm delighted he's back."

Everton will no doubt be putting that cash towards their attempt to lure Wales striker Dean Saunders away from Derby.

Chelsea are the favourites to provide it, although it will take an offer of \$4.3 million to persuade Millwall to sell their greatest asset. Nottingham Forest have already had one \$3.4 million rejected.

Meanwhile, former England midfield man Martin Dobson has quit after a month in charge of non-League Northwich Victoria to become manager of Second Division Bristol Rovers.

He has signed a three-year contract as the successor to Gerry Francis, who left Rovers recently for Queen's Park Rangers.

Aston Villa paid a club record Stg1.6 million (\$A3.38 million) for Real Sociedad striker Dalian Atkinson.

Villa's new manager Ron Atkinson originally signed the former England under-21 international for Sheffield Wednesday two years ago before selling him to the Spanish club.

Atkinson said of the 23-year-old player: "As soon as I took over at Villa I knew that Dalian was a player I had to sign. He is one of the most exciting players that I have ever worked with."

Nottingham Forest's England midfielder Steve Hodge joined Leeds for \$1.5 million.

Leeds, who finished fourth in their first season back in Division One, have signed Southampton twins Ray and Rodney Wallace and England defender Tony

Howe's that?

DON Howe, the former England assistant manager sacked by Queen's Park Rangers two months ago, is set to return to London neighbours Wimbledon as coach.

The 55-year-old one-time Arsenal boss is to have talks with Wimbledon manager Ray Harford this week.

"There's no hurry and I haven't made up my mind about anything yet," said Howe, who was Wimbledon coach under Bobby Gould when they won the FA Cup in 1988.

"I'll be talking to Ray this week, discussing terms and finding out what the job is all about.

"But I may not make a decision for a couple of weeks."

"At the moment I'm just enjoying summer."

DOUBLE DUTCH

BVV Den Bosch have appealed UEFA's three-season ban against them competing in European Cup play.

"We think this is an absurd situation, contradicting the law," BVV Den Bosch manager Chris van de Laar said.

UEFA confirmed that the appeal had been filed.

The Zurich-based Union of European Football Associations banned the Dutch cup finalists because Den Bosch went to civil court to obtain a replay of the June 2 Cup Final's second half against Feyenoord.

Under UEFA regulations, clubs must settle soccer-related disputes exclusively through their national soccer authorities.

The Royal Dutch Soccer Association had refused to order a replay.

As a result of the sanction, Feyenoord was awarded the Dutch berth in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

The court replay order, invalidating Feyenoord's 1-0 win, was issued because Rotterdam fans had poured onto the field and disrupted play several times during the second half.

The replay had been postponed until July at the earliest.



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week

MONKEY'S FOR SPURS



They can go bust — it won't bother me

INTERVIEW
WITH
BOBBY
MIMMS

Vinny's the new Gazza

GAZZA should grab the fire and go to Lazio.

"He'd be a fool not to," says Mimms. "More than a few players have regretted not taking chances like that."

"Yet last summer there were lads at Spurs who look at him in Italy and thought he wouldn't survive the World Cup."

Chance

"And if it had come 12 months earlier, I don't think he would have handled it."

"But he's taken off from there and it's given him his chance for riches."

"It'll be disappointing for the fans who've watched him

week in, week out, but nobody's bigger than the club and by going to Italy he could help Spurs.

"And there will always be a player coming along to take fans' minds off him."

"Gazza proved that after Chris Waddle left. And there's someone at Spurs who can make them forget Gazza — Vinny Samways."

"I always rated Vinny. He must have been very disappointed when Spurs bought Gascoigne. Now he looks like having the chance to prove there is life after Gazza."

Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Bobby Mimms has left London for Blackburn Rovers and he couldn't be happier.

Mimms has bad memories of his stay at Spurs and is looking forward to helping Rovers into the First Division.

"I'm back training and I haven't felt this way before a season since I was at Everton."

Mimms left Goodison for Spurs in February 1988 with a \$700,000 ticket and a big reputation.

But from the first day he never felt truly wanted at White Hart Lane.

"Almost immediately," he recalls, "there were talks that Spurs wanted another keeper."

"It may have been

paper talk but it didn't help."

Blunder

He also found himself propelling up a team far short of Everton's in results and confidence.

"I went to the right club at the wrong time."

"Everyone had his problem and I couldn't burden them with mine."

Those included an inexplicable run of mistakes, including one horrendous blunder at OPR.

"After that there were headlines about Bobby Mimms."

"And I could hardly pick up a paper without seeing it mentioned."

"But that wasn't the worst moment. That came at home against Derby."

"We lost 3-1 and every one of the goals we conceded I could trace back to me."

"In hindsight, I could probably have done with a kick up the backside."

"Spurs boss Terry Venables should have dropped me. Instead, he just let me soldier on."

"It was difficult not taking problems home with me. But I don't know what I'd have done without my wife Karen supporting me."

"Terry Venables told me when Erik first arrived, that he wanted us to battle it out for the No.1 spot.

"That never happened. The result was already decided. There were times when Erik was struggling and I still didn't get in."

"Ironically, by the time I left, I was nearer displacing him than I'd ever been."

"Venables told me: 'You're putting real pressure on Erik.' But that wasn't going to keep me. I'd had enough. And even the fact they won the FA Cup didn't make me envious."

"And his attitude never changed. When he was injured and I was in the team, he made it plain I had no chance of keeping him out."

"He expected to be back just as soon as he was ready."



ERIC THORSTVEDT: big headed?

... And I didn't give a damn for bighead Thorstvedt

ERIC'S A PAIN IN THE GRASS

BOBBY MIMMS never got on with Erik Thorstvedt from the moment the Norwegian arrived.

"And I wasn't alone, says Mimms. "I think Gudni Bergsson is the only friend he's got at Spurs."

ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION

Scholar's lost all his clout — Sugar

IRVING SCHOLAR, loser in the long battle for control of Spurs, had his fate spelled out for him last Saturday.

■ Former chairman Scholar retained his seat on the football club's board after tycoon Alan Sugar took over.

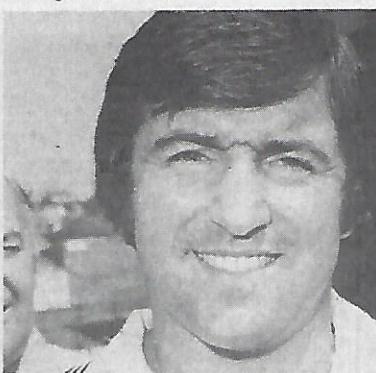
But new owner Sugar declared: "That is merely a cosmetic gesture."

"Mr Scholar is entitled to some form of recognition as a devoted supporter of Spurs."

■ "But neither he, nor Paul Bobroff will have any say in running things. The board of the football club doesn't even sit."

Sugar, a multi-millionaire computer king, keyed in a withering blast for Scholar's old Spurs regime.

A large chunk of Spurs' £13m debt was incurred by leisure wear losses and escalating costs in the building of a new stand.



TERRY VENABLES

■ And Sugar added: "The fiasco of the East Stand won't occur again. It's a financial and mechanical disaster."

"It's just not on to spend that amount of money and have two bloody great poles sticking up in the middle."

Sugar, who has installed takeover partner Terry Venables as his managing director, unwrapped his vision of Spurs' future.

■ It includes: Cash for new signings being made available to Venables in November.

The acquisition of a chain of leisure centres as the prime source of off-the-field profits.

The doubling or tripling of the Spurs share price.

■ Sugar said: "The logic of this deal is that it brings together someone who has done well financially and someone who has done well from a football point of view."

"Terry can't go out and buy a player for £1 million."

■ "But I expect the club's debt to be zeroed out by November. And Terry will be able to start shopping around from them on."

"My vision for Tottenham Hotspur is that profit derived from football will be spread into other leisure activities."

"Jumpers, shirts and nonsense like that, you can forget about."

■ "We will have leisure centres, aerobics and keep fit clubs on the lines of the David Lloyd tennis centre."

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TV MATCH CLASH!

A new clash could be added to the soccer fixtures announced Saturday — ITV v the Football League.

TV fans will miss out on an early-season bonanza of big games — unless TV tells the League to change their fixture list.

The season gets under way on August 17, but no live TV League games are planned until late October or November.

And that would mean no as-it-happens television coverage of the Liverpool-Everton Mersey derby on August 31.

Or Liverpool's match at FA Cup holders Tottenham on September 4. Or the Kop stars' mega-battle with European Cup-Winners' Cup holders Manchester United on October 5.

Other juicy early-season games include

champions Arsenal's home match with Everton (August 21) and the Gunners' trip to Old Trafford on October 19.

ITV, starting the last season of a four-year deal worth £44m with the League, can't be happy that Liverpool haven't a really big match between late October and December 28.

Liverpool were featured live eight times on ITV last season.

The big battles between Arsenal and Liverpool aren't scheduled until later in the season — Wednesday, January 29 at Anfield and Monday, April 20 at Highbury.

ITV press officer Peter Coppock said Saturday: "We're always in discussion with the League. But at the moment our thoughts are concentrated on coverage of the Rugby Union World Cup throughout October."



Defending English First Division champions Arsenal



TOP TV COMMENTATOR: MARTIN TYLER

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, July 13

* World Soccer — 5pm

Main match: USSR v Italy — a look back at a semi-final of the 1988 European Championship played in Germany.



Sunday, July 14

* European Football — 11.00am

Main match: Liverpool v Arsenal — an invitational match played in front of 70,000 spectators in Singapore. A winner takes all challenge, with \$100,000 to the winning team!

Big Ron faces stormy one!

NEWLY-appointed Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson faces a stormy reception when he takes his team to play his former club Sheffield Wednesday on the opening day of the English soccer season next month.

Atkinson moved to Villa in June despite leading Wednesday to a League Cup and promotion double last season.

Wednesday fans felt betrayed as Atkinson initially turned down the lucrative Villa offer and pledged his loyalty to the Sheffield club only to change his mind a few days later.

Champions Arsenal are at home to London rivals Queen's Park Rangers when the season starts on August 17, while newly-promoted Oldham and Notts County have been given tough away fixtures.

Oldham, returning to the first division after a 68-year absence, travel to Liverpool while County are away to European Cup Winners' Cup holders Manchester United.

West Ham, the fourth promoted club as the first division reverts to a 22-team format, host Luton and Crystal Palace and Leeds, who



RON ATKINSON

finished third and fourth respectively last season, meet at Selhurst Park.

First day fixtures:

DIV ONE

Arsenal v Queens Park Rangers, Chelsea v Wimbledon, Coventry City v Manchester City, Crystal Palace v Leeds United, Liverpool v Old Ham Athletic, Manchester United v Notts County, Norwich City v Sheffield United, Grimsby Town v Cambridge, Middlesbrough v Mill-

United, Nottingham Forest v Everton, Sheffield Wednesday v Aston Villa, Southampton v Tottenham, West Ham United v Luton Town.

DIV TWO

Blackburn Rovers v Portsmouth, Brighton v Tranmere, Bristol Rovers v Ipswich Town, Charlton Athletic v Newcastle United, Grimsby Town v Cambridge, Mill-

wall, Plymouth Argyle v Barnsley, Port Vale v Oxford United, Southend United v Bristol City, Sunderland v Derby County, Swindon Town v Leicester City, Watford v Wolves.

DIV FOUR

Barnet v Crewe Alexandra, Blackpool v Walsall, Cardiff City v Lincoln City, Chesterfield v Maidstone United, Doncaster Rovers v Carlisle United, Gillingham v Scunthorpe United, Halifax Town v Northampton Town, Rotherham United v Burnley, Scarborough v Mansfield Town, Wrexham v Hereford United.

FLECKI

ROBERT FLECKI could fill Chelsea's striking gap when Gordon Durie leaves.

The chunky Norwich hit man is fancied as Kerry Dixon's new partner.

Russ on his way

RUSSELL BEARDSMORE is on his way out of Manchester United.

The 22-year-old winger has had enough of being left out in the cold at Old Trafford.

His chances of breaking through are even slimmer now £650,000 Russian flyer Andrei

Kontschelskis is on the payroll.

Now talented Russell is ready to try his luck elsewhere and United boss Alex Ferguson will let him go for around £300,000.

Sheffield Wednesday could give the slim Wigan lad a new home.

They are in the market for a flanker.

ACTION SPECIAL: ABSW — best in the world for soccer